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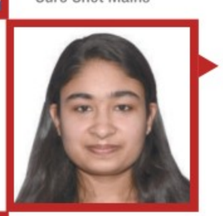

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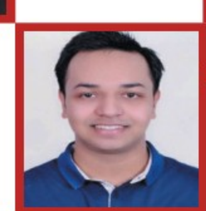

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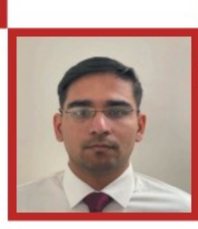

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Panel suggests entertainment fee and tax

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what could pinch the pockets of Bengalureans seeking avenues of recreation, the Fifth State Finance Commission has recommended that the city corporations may levy an entertainment fee and impose an entertainment tax to increase the revenue of the newly-formed corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The panel said an annual revenue of ₹300 crore could be generated from GBA area from these.

Although it is not clear if the corporations will go by this suggestion and impose the fee, significantly, the panel cites "GBA's estimation" in the report that indicates that the authority has already worked out projections. If the State government accepts the recommendation and gives green signal to the GBA, ticket prices in the city could go up.

Lok Sabha takes up resolution seeking removal of Speaker

Sandeep Phukan
Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday took up a resolution moved by the Opposition seeking the removal of Speaker Om Birla, with both the Treasury and Opposition benches trading sharp accusations over the neutrality of the Chair.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju described the motion as an "attack on democracy itself", while the Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the resolution was brought from compulsion to "protect the neutrality" of the institution of the Speaker.

Initiating the debate, Mr. Gogoi slammed the Speaker's conduct, alleging partisan behaviour and arguing that the motion was necessary to "save the Constitution". "We are saddened that we had to bring such a resolution because we all have personal relations with the Speaker. But it is our dharma and duty to protect the decorum and dignity of this House," he said.

> We are saddened that we had to bring such a resolution... But it is our *dharma* and duty to protect the decorum and dignity of this House
>
> **GAURAV GOGOI**
> Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha

The discussion, for which 10 hours have been allotted, will continue on Wednesday and conclude with a vote.

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Gas from new sources will end shortage, say officials

Importing natural gas from U.S., Norway has now become viable, though the shipping distance may prolong shortage of the cooking fuel, they say; domestic LPG production has been increased

Saptaparno Ghosh
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The current crunch in India's natural gas supply is likely to be short-lived as the prevailing higher prices make imports from distant sources economically viable, according to government sources. However, such shipments typically take longer to arrive, meaning the country could face a shortage in the interim, they said.

India's LPG output has increased by 10% after prioritising supplies to households over industry users, an official said requesting anonymity. On March 5, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry had asked all oil refining companies to maximise production, directing that all propane and butane produced, recovered, or otherwise available to be utilised for LPG output.

"On LNG, it is very difficult to make changes quickly," the official said. "Apart from Qatar, our other options are Norwegian or American gas, and that takes a long time to reach India." Shipping industry estimates suggest it takes about two months for vessels to travel to the U.S. or Norway and return to India with gas cargo.

Another government official said LPG and LNG supplies had been diversified, with cargoes "already arriving". "Some geographies are distant and therefore take time, but supplies are coming," the official said.

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Short crisis

Gas shipments from distant regions, while economically feasible, might take longer to arrive, **leading to a shortage in the interim**

- On March 5, Centre had asked all oil refining companies to **maximise production**, with all propane and butane produced, recovered, or otherwise available to be used for producing LPG
- LPG output has increased **10% from previous levels** since prioritising supplies to households over industries, says official
- Gas from Norway and the U.S. are now **'viable options'** apart from Qatar
- Estimates suggest **two months** for India to bring gas from Norway or the U.S.

LPG shortage pushes eateries into a crisis

Hoteliers across the country have flagged the shortage in supply of commercial cooking gas. Various restaurant associations have warned that the situation would force many units to shut down while urging the government to ensure uninterrupted supply of cooking fuel. » PAGE 13

NEARBY

LPG crisis: Hotels in Bengaluru may shut services

BENGALURU
After cutting down on their menus, hotels and restaurants across Bengaluru are likely to shut operations from Wednesday as uncertainty over the supply of commercial LPG cylinders continues to disrupt the sector. » PAGE 2

5% GST revenue allocation for ULBs favoured

BENGALURU
The Fifth State Finance Commission has recommended that the government earmark 5% of GST revenue generated in cities to Urban Local Self Governments. » PAGE 8

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Melbourne madness

GETTY IMAGES

The race at Albert Park was a battle of wits, speed and a whole load of battery management; Mercedes' lead driver Russell grabbed his moments to set the tone for the year, with the Ferraris breathing down his neck

Anirudh Velamuri

George Russell's grin said it all in Melbourne on Sunday. It was more than happiness; it was vindication. He set the tone for the 2026 season by claiming a commanding victory at the Australian Grand Prix, as pre-season favourite Mercedes announced, in no uncertain terms, that it was ready to reclaim its place at the top of the grid.

For Russell, the triumph had been a long time coming. After proving his skill at Williams, he joined Mercedes just as the team's dominance was fading. Four years of watching Max Verstappen-led Red Bull Racing rule the grid, as well as last year's McLaren surge, had tested his patience. Now, with a fresh era of regulations, his moment to shine arrived.

The 2026 regulation overhaul allowed all teams to start afresh, and the Australian GP was the first real test. Mercedes - sans the sandbags - delivered a car that excelled in both qualifying and race trim. Russell claimed pole by an astonishing 0.785 seconds over the nearest non-Mercedes. It echoed Lewis Hamilton's dominance at Albert Park in 2018, the last time F1 saw such a wide gap in qualifying Down Under.

That strong qualifying performance, combined with a smart strategy - more on that later - during virtual safety car (VSC) periods and consistent pace, helped Russell dazzle his way to victory. Kimi Antonelli crossed the finish line behind him, making it Mercedes' first 1-2 from the junior programme, and their first without Hamilton since the 1955 Italian GP.

No one was more relieved to see the Silver Arrows competing for wins again than team principal Toto Wolff.

"The most important feeling is so much contentment we feel as a team. We had such a long winning stretch, winning eight championships. Then a difficult period. But after a solid one-two, you feel you are fighting for a world title ... [and] that Mercedes is back."

Whether Mercedes can sustain this form over a 24-race season remains to be seen, but Sunday was a strong statement.

Prancing Horse trips, again

True to the pre-race chatter, Ferrari surged off the line when the lights went out. The advantages of the team reportedly choosing a smaller turbocharger in its power unit were clear, as the lighter turbine spools up faster, providing stronger acceleration from low RPMs.

Russell was slow to get off the line, which allowed Charles Leclerc to charge past at Turn 1 while Antonelli tumbled down the order. A little behind him, his teammate Hamilton also made big gains, progressing from P7 to P3.

However, strategy missteps undermined their efforts.

That early advantage went up in smoke when Ferrari opted against following Mercedes into the pits during the race's first VSC. Russell and Antonelli opted for fresh rubber while Leclerc and Hamilton were directed to favour track position.

It was a decision that baffled viewers and pundits alike, with Hamilton also airing his frustration on the team radio. "At least one of us should have pitted."

"How are they (Russell) only 10 seconds behind? How did you not call? How did you not call the pit, man?" he later added. A second VSC offered a brief lifeline, but a blocked pit lane prevented Ferrari from capitalising. The decision ultimately cost the team crucial time, confirming a familiar theme: Ferrari's speed remains, but race execution lags.

However, it is not all doom and gloom for Formula 1's oldest and most successful team, as Hamilton later explained.

"The team did a great job overall. There are lots of positives to take. I know we can be fighting for podiums. We're not as fast as Mercedes but we're right in the fight. We've got a lot of work to do to catch them, but it's not impossible."

His former boss, Wolff, also stated that Ferrari remains Mercedes' closest competitor. "It was a three-way fight at a certain stage between the two Ferraris and George, and eventually Kimi caught up. The race pace at the end was very encouraging from our side, but at the beginning, there was nothing between Ferrari and Mercedes. For me, the prevailing feeling is now we have a fight on our hands with Ferrari."

McLaren's crown slips

Oscar Piastri had a strong weekend up to Sunday, qualifying P5 and showing that the McLaren package had potential. However, all of that was undone even before the lights went out on race day.

On the formation lap at Albert Park, he lost control of his McLaren after clipping the exit kerb at Turn 4 and slid into the concrete wall. He later disclosed that his car received an unexpected surge of roughly 100 kilowatts of additional power that unsettled it.

"I got on the kerb a little bit. Essentially, I had 100 kW more power than I've had the whole weekend, at the point that I shifted. When I shifted, it went into wheelspin, and given that I was on the kerb already, it was a combination of bad factors." Lando Norris brought home some points for McLaren, finishing a respectable P5. However, he was just the best of the rest, behind the Mercedes and Ferraris, two-stopping his way to the finish line.

Team principal Andrea Stella acknowledged that McLaren has 0.5-1 second performance gap to close to Mercedes, despite using the same engine.

"We remain a little puzzled by the difference we see in the data between the speed of our car and the speed of other cars using the same power unit. It clearly indicates that we should be doing a better job in understanding how to utilise the power unit with the complexities that came with the 2026 regulations," he explained. "We need to find a way to extract more out of the power unit and, on the other side, develop the car. This will take a few races to see some major upgrades. In these few initial races, we will have to make sure that we extract most of the car in its current configuration."

Licence to struggle

Aston Martin's problems with its new Honda power unit surprised no one. Severe vibrations from the engine limited early running in practice laps and even led to concerns about driver safety. Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll even stated that they could only sustain a limited number of laps before risking nerve damage in their hands.

Component failures compounded the issues. Aston Martin was left with just two batteries for the race after two failed, prompting serious questions about their participation, let alone competitiveness. "We've had a fresh problem of communication internally with the battery and its management system. But the more pressing underlying problem is the vibration issues that we continue to struggle with," Adrian Newey, Aston Martin's new team principal, told the media in Melbourne.

"Today (Sunday) was primarily an opportunity to learn more about the AMR26. Both cars took the start and, when it became clear we could not compete for points, we chose to pit and check the cars over. The team then asked Fernando to retire the car to preserve components. The data and learnings from this weekend will help us as we go into the next event." Aston Martin will need to grasp the lessons swiftly before the window for recovery closes.

Reliability issues

As many as five cars either failed to start the Grand Prix or failed to go the race distance in Melbourne.

Isack Hadjar brought out the first virtual safety car on lap 11 after his Red Bull came to a halt with smoke pouring out the back. Seven laps later, there was a second virtual safety car period after Bottas' Cadillac broke down.

Alonso, who had a strong start by going as high as P10, pitted on lap 15 and rejoined the race several laps later after Aston Martin made some adjustments to his car. He eventually called it quits on lap 37. Two drivers did not take part in the race at all, for vastly different reasons.

Nico Hulkenberg's Audi experienced technical troubles before the race, his car never making it out of the garage. A heartbroken Piastri was resigned to watching the race on a screen rather than taking part in it.

While Alonso's teammate Stroll managed to get to the chequered flag and take P17, he finished 15 laps behind following a lengthy pit stop on lap 35.

Sunday at Albert Park was a reminder of the fine margins and unpredictability of Formula 1. Mercedes stamped its authority on the season opener, but Melbourne is only the first act of what promises to be a long saga. Trust that there will be plenty of drama lacing the championship fight this season!

THE GIST

- Exceptional pace and smart strategy helped Mercedes' Russell claim victory, with teammate Antonelli finishing P2
- Leclerc and Hamilton were fast off the line, but poor strategic calls proved costly. However, it is not all doom and gloom for Ferrari
- Norris salvaged points for McLaren after Piastri's crash, but the team needs to quickly address the 0.5-1 second gap (per lap) to Mercedes
- Aston Martin's struggles continue, with Adrian Newey stating that the team treated the race as a learning exercise
- Reliability chaos hits the field, with five cars failing to complete the race and a sixth finishing 15 laps behind

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J BG-BGE

LPG crisis: Restaurants in city likely to shut services

The impact was visible on food delivery platforms, with several restaurants either reducing the number of items available online or temporarily suspending deliveries through aggregators

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

After cutting down on their menus, hotels and restaurants across Bengaluru are likely to shut operations from Wednesday as uncertainty over the supply of commercial LPG cylinders continues to disrupt the sector. Several establishments, after limiting services on Tuesday, said they have no option but to halt operations if supplies are not restored soon.

On Tuesday, many small eateries that serve a large section of the city's daily workforce put up boards reading "Only tea and coffee available" while others reduced their menus. Hoteliers said items such as vada and dosa were among the first to be cut because they require continuous heat even when food is not actively being prepared, leading to higher gas consumption.

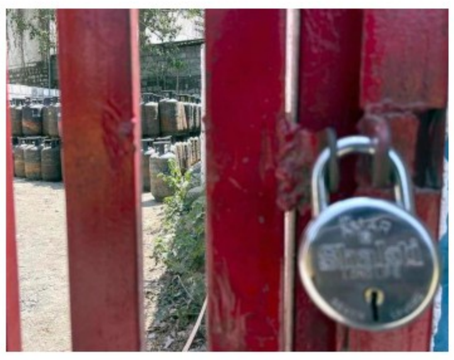
P.C. Rao, president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association, told *The Hindu* that establishments are likely to withdraw services completely from Wednesday.

The impact was also visible on food delivery platforms, with several restaurants either reducing the number of items available online or temporarily suspending deliveries through aggregators. Restaurants said they had first suspended services on food delivery platforms to prioritise walk-in customers.

"We do not know if we can handle online demand in this situation. If supplies are not restored, we may have to shut the establishment starting Wednesday," said Mahesh Reddy, owner of Sri Ayodhya Veg in Vasanth Nagar. Arun Adiga, owner of Vidyarthi Bhavan, said the restaurant had already scaled down operations to conserve gas. "A dosa tawa needs to remain heated constantly even while not cooking. We have shut down two of our four tawas to reduce gas consumption," he said. On a usual weekday, the restaurant serves around 1,800 to 2,000 dosas. "We can stretch for another day or two, but beyond that, it will be very difficult if there is no solution," he added.

Some hoteliers said commercial cylinders are now being quoted at ₹2,800-₹3,000 in the black market, but even at those prices they are difficult to obtain.

S.P. Krishnaraj, owner of Nisarga Grand on Nrupathunga Road, said the sudden disruption had left the industry scrambling. "We were assured by the Ministry that there would be no disruption in supply for the next 60 days, as the Union government had also stated in its social media posts. But suddenly, we were informed that there is a shortage and that refilling has been stopped. Hotels cannot find alternatives overnight. We can only work out other options if we are informed at least 15 days in advance. Right now, everything has come to a standstill," he lamented.



Many small eateries that serve a large section of the city's daily workforce put up boards reading 'only tea and coffee available'; some hoteliers said commercial cylinders are now being quoted at ₹2,800–₹3,000 in the black market, but even at those prices they are difficult to obtain. K. MURALI KUMAR, SUDHAKARA JAIN

Midday meals programme unaffected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing West Asia crisis which has disrupted the supply of commercial LPG cylinders will not affect the midday meal programme in government and aided schools for the time being, sources in the School Education Department said.

The State government is supplying domestic LPG cylinders to schools and anganwadi centres for the midday meal programme. Moreover, schools and anganwadi centres will close from April 10 and only open in May-June later this year. " There is a manageable gas stock till April 10. Due to this, there will be no problem in providing midday meals in schools and Anganwadi centres," said Varalakshmi, Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including ISKCON and Adamya Chetana, which are supplying midday meals to thousands of government and aided school children across the State, have been using briquettes instead of commercial gas to prepare food for many years. So, their operations are also unaffected.

Officials from gas agencies said calls and online bookings increased sharply on Tuesday as residents sought confirmation on the availability of cylinders. K. MURALI KUMAR

Gas agencies see surge in bookings and queries

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Amid disruptions in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders due to escalating tensions in West Asia, domestic gas agencies in Bengaluru have reported a surge in bookings and enquiries from households concerned about the availability of cooking gas. Dealers, however, said there is adequate stock for domestic consumers, though deliveries may take slightly longer than usual.

Rise in calls, enquiries

Officials from gas agencies said calls and online bookings increased sharply on Tuesday as residents sought confirmation on the availability of cylinders. Ashok Mahadevappa K. of Indian Oil Corporation Limited said agencies are receiving frequent enquiries from customers worried about possible shortages. "We are getting at least 10 calls every hour from people asking whether cylinders are available. Even online bookings have increased significantly," he said.

Concerns

Some residents said the uncertainty around commercial LPG supply has triggered concern among households as well. "We generally do not keep an extra cylinder at home, but there was some panic after hearing that commercial LPG supply had been affected. However, this morning we received a message from our gas agency stating that there is adequate supply of domestic cylinders and there is no need to worry," said Ramesh Jain, a resident of Vasanth Nagar.

No shortage: Dealers

Dealers, however, maintained that the situation is not a supply shortage but a temporary strain caused by increased demand. A representative from HP Gas said deliveries that would normally take one or two days may now take up to five days until demand stabilises.

"There is no shortage of cylinders for domestic consumers. However, because many people are trying to book at the same time, deliveries may be delayed slightly," he said, requesting consumers not to panic or stockpile cylinders unnecessarily as it could affect those who urgently require them.

The representative added that once the news about hotels facing LPG issues started circulating, many households assumed there would be a similar disruption for domestic cylinders.

"We have been clarifying that household LPG supply continues as usual, and the government has also stated that domestic consumers will be prioritised," he added.

Autorickshaw drivers fear gas shortage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Autorickshaw drivers in the city have expressed concern over a possible shortage and price hike of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the conflict in West Asia continues, with many fearing that disruptions in global supply could soon affect fuel availability in the city.

The majority of autorickshaws in Bengaluru run on LPG, making drivers particularly anxious about any fluctuation in supply and price. Drivers' unions say that the price of LPG has already increased and that different fuel stations are charging varying rates, which they believe could signal supply uncertainty in the coming days.

"Most autorickshaws in Bengaluru depend on LPG as their primary fuel. While a small number operate on CNG and a few have shifted to electric vehicles, the overwhelming majority still relies on LPG. If the supply chain is affected due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, it will directly impact auto services across the city. Drivers are already paying nearly ₹79 per litre at several fuel outlets. If availability becomes uncertain, hundreds of drivers will struggle to operate, which will also inconvenience passengers," T.M. Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU), said.

A majority of autorickshaws in Bengaluru run on LPG. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Rajendra Kumar, an autorickshaw driver from Kamakshipalya, said drivers have little buffer if supplies tighten. "Unlike petrol or diesel, we cannot stock up on LPG. I have barely two litres left in my vehicle and it will run out by today," said Mr. Kumar on Tuesday. "There are already queues at some fuel stations and the price has gone up. If supplies slow down, it will become very difficult for drivers to continue work," he added.

Prasanath Kumar, a LPG fuel outlet owner in Arakere, said that stocks are currently available but concerns remain. He said, "Delays in supply from distributors could quickly lead to fuel scarcity. Some outlets are already witnessing pressure due to rising demand for both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders."

Oil marketing companies shut auto LPG supply in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi districts

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Amid concerns about short-supply of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to hotels and other 'non-essential' customers, public sector oil marketing companies have stopped supplying auto LPG to dispensing stations in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

"We have not been receiving the supply since Thursday," said Satish N. Kamath, a Hindustan Petroleum Corporation dealer in Padubidri, Udupi district on Tuesday. This has pushed those using auto LPG as a fuel, particularly autorickshaw drivers, into deep trouble, he said.

The auto LPG demand in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts is about 20 kilolitres per day. H. S. MANJUNATH

Mr. Kamath said the OMCs, instead of completely shutting the supply, could have rationed the supplies so that poor autorickshaw drivers would have made a living. Many owners and drivers have modified their vehicles by removing petrol tanks altogether and they are the ones severely affected, he said.

The auto LPG demand in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts is about 20 kilolitres per day, with about 12 dealers of PSU companies distributing the same. Mr. Kamath said private companies might have been delivering auto LPG as at present; however, they too might have to shut dispensing once supply stops.

The scene at a few private auto LPG dispensing stations in Mangaluru was a bit different on Tuesday, with autorickshaws running on LPG getting refuelled. Bunk operators said the supply has not completely been stopped; but there has been staggered supply.

Sources in OMCs claimed that almost all autorickshaws are capable of running on duel fuel--LPG/Petrol or CNG/Petrol. Shutting auto LPG supply is a temporary measure till the situation eases, they said.

Chief Minister writes to Union Minister flagging disruption in supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri seeking urgent intervention to address the disruption in supply of commercial LPG to hotels and restaurants in Bengaluru.

The Chief Minister said the problem appeared to have arisen following a revised order issued by the Ministry on Monday, which prioritises LPG production for domestic consumers. While the intention behind the order – to ensure uninterrupted supply to households – was appreciated, its implementation had led to an unintended shortage of commercial LPG in Bengaluru, he said. "Several hotels and restaurant associations in the city have reported that they are unable to procure commercial LPG cylinders. Many establishments are expressing concern that they may have to temporarily shut operations if supplies are not restored soon," Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote.

He noted that Bengaluru has a large ecosystem of small restaurants, mess facilities, and catering units that serve lakhs of people every day. According to discussions with oil marketing companies, the State's commercial LPG demand has been supported by three public sector companies – Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. supplying around 500-550 tonnes per day, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. supplying around 300 tonnes per day, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. supplying around 230 tonnes per day.

"The sudden disruption of this supply is now severely affecting hotels, catering establishments, and other commercial users in Bengaluru," he wrote, adding that any disruption to their functioning would directly affect daily life in the city.

He pointed out that the shortage would particularly impact students and working professionals living away from their homes who depend on hotels and mess facilities for regular meals. Wedding halls, hostels and event venues, that rely on commercial LPG for cooking, were facing uncertainty, especially with scheduled social and community events, he added. Mr. Siddaramaiah urged the Union government to ensure adequate supply of commercial LPG to hotels, restaurants, choultries, community halls, and other commercial establishments in the city. "Appropriate directions to the oil marketing companies to address the current supply constraints would help ease the situation," he stated.

Researchers publish first-of-its-kind checklist on fireflies across the country

Many of these species were described in the 1800s and have never been studied again in modern taxonomy, leaving large gaps in understanding the glowing insects.

A study published in the Zootaxa journal on March 10 documents 92 species across 27 genera, with more than 60% of them endemic. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Researchers have brought out a first-of-its-kind checklist of fireflies in India by putting together data from more than 260 years of scattered scientific records from 1881 to 2025.

A study published in the *Zootaxa* journal on March 10 documents 92 species across 27 genera, with more than 60% of them endemic.

According to the authors of the study, many of these species were described in the 1800s and have never been studied again in modern taxonomy, leaving large gaps in understanding the glowing insects. The paper titled 'A checklist of fireflies (Coleoptera: Lampyridae) from India' was authored by Parvez, Akshay Kumar Chakravarthy, Oliver Keller, Devanshu Gupta and Amlan Das.

The researchers note that while there have been attempts to build research on firefly taxonomy, the results have been fragmented so far. Parvez, lead author of the paper, notes that more than 50 species have not been recorded again from India since their original descriptions.

"In light of the lack of accessible resources for the Indian fireflies, a literature survey was taken to produce a modern checklist of species from the subcontinent. This checklist of the Lampyridae of India is presented as a first step to remedy the situation, and to provide researchers with a resource to conduct research on fireflies," reads the study.

The checklist provides names of species, names of scientists who documented them originally and subsequently, years of documentation, and geographies in which the species are found. Fireflies were found in 22 States, including one Union Territory, and it was found that several species occurred across geographies.

According to Parvez, the insufficiency of modern literature on fireflies has been a major stumbling block for researchers who study the insects.

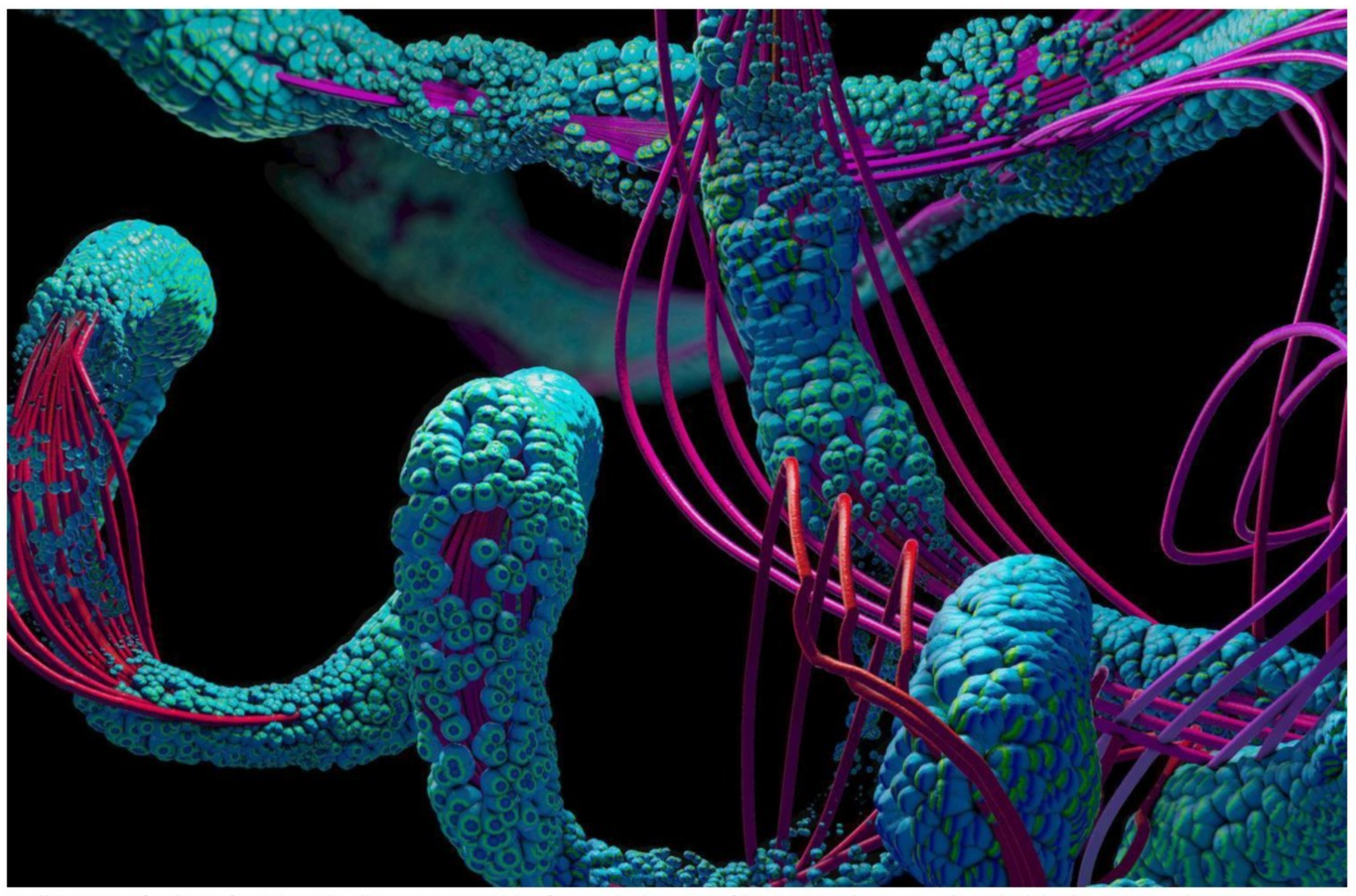
"In taxonomy, when the literature is limited, even if you have collected a species, it is hard to identify them or tell if it is a new or existing species," he explains, adding that one solution is to compare them with the collection in the London Museum which hosts a large number of specimens of fireflies found in India.

"During the Colonial period, the British collected a lot of firefly specimens from India. But when they left, they also took all possible

Scientists rewire bacteria to build 'designer' proteins on demand

By engineering a protein called a 'nutrient transporter', scientists have found a way to smuggle artificial amino acids into bacterial cells; the feat allows them to manufacture complex designer proteins that can carry drugs to precise locations inside the body or perform multiple different tasks at the same time

Joel P. Joseph
BENGALURU



An illustration of a chain of amino acids. All proteins are made of some combination of the 20 natural amino acids. In the lab, chemists can also synthesise thousands of artificial amino acids, many of which have completely new properties. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

THE GIST

In the 1980s, Peter Schultz and his colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley, laid the foundations of incorporating artificial amino acids into proteins at specific sites

Over the years, scientists have expanded this toolkit to incorporate artificial amino acids in proteins that cells make

Yet one problem has persisted: the struggle to get enough artificial amino acids into the cell

The recent findings matter because in many standard lab broths, there are already lots of natural peptides floating around, and they all compete for the same transporter, reducing how much of the cargo is smuggled inside the cell

Researchers have found a way to hijack the natural protein-making facilities of bacteria to manufacture specific proteins of interest. They did this by turning a 'nutrient gate' on a bacterial cell into a Trojan horse that could ferry artificial amino acids into cells to make these proteins.

The study, conducted by teams at ETH Zurich in Switzerland and the Technical University of Munich in Germany, was published in *Nature*.

All proteins are made of some combination of the 20 natural amino acids. In the lab, chemists can also synthesise thousands of artificial amino acids, many of which have completely new properties. For example, if an amino acid called p-azido-L-phenylalanine can be built into a protein, it would allow scientists to attach drugs to the protein at a precise spot, helping it treat some disease.

The challenge however has been to get cells' protein-making machines to use these artificial amino acids.

Idea and bottleneck

In the 1980s, Peter Schultz and his colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley, laid the foundations of incorporating artificial amino acids into proteins at specific sites. Over the years, scientists have expanded this toolkit to incorporate artificial amino acids in proteins that cells make.

Yet one problem has persisted: the struggle to get enough artificial amino acids into the cell. Most lab-made amino acids struggle to cross the cell membrane and enter the cytoplasm, where the ribosomes synthesise proteins. This is because the side chains on artificial amino acids are very water-loving whereas the core of the cell-membrane is water-repelling.

To solve this problem, scientists have used one of three approaches in the past: (i) adding large concentrations of artificial amino acids in the medium so they passively cross the cell membrane; (ii) engineering membrane-binding proteins to smuggle small peptides (short chains of amino acids) across the cell membrane and break them down to amino acids once inside the cell; or (iii) engineering metabolic pathways within the cells to produce artificial amino acids inside the cells.

These methods showed some progress but they were still specific to certain amino acids. They couldn't be generalised.

In the new study, the researchers pinned down the exact molecule ferrying the peptides into the cell. In the absence of the transporter – the main bacterial system that normally imports small protein fragments as food – the cells almost completely lost the ability to use the artificial amino acids bound to the peptides. That was a sign this specific molecule was the smuggler. Once the peptides were inside, the cell's own protein-cutting enzymes unpacked them.

The researchers were able to confirm this: when they removed the enzymes that normally cut peptides into individual amino acids, the cell's protein production dropped. Taken together, the transporter brought the cargo in, then ordinary enzymes freed the artificial amino acid so the cell's ribosome could use it.

Across the membrane

Kathrin Lang and her colleagues at ETH Zurich started from the same idea: by attaching the artificial amino acid to a short peptide. But this group pushed the idea further in the bacteria *Escherichia coli*.

Laasya Samhita, assistant professor of biology at Ashoka University in Sonepat, explained that the group engineered an ABC transporter, a specific membrane protein that imports other proteins into the cell, using directed evolution to take up peptides carrying artificial amino acids.

The ABC transporter normally transports tripeptides (i.e. three amino acids) and tetrapeptides (four amino acids) into the cell as sources of nutrients. Dr. Lang and co. designed tripeptides and tetrapeptides in which they hid an artificial amino acid between two natural amino acids, thus causing the transporter to smuggle artificial amino acids into the cell. Once inside, the myriad peptide-cleaving enzymes inside the cell chopped them into individual amino acids, making artificial amino acids available for cells to make new proteins.

The recent study has also shown that the approach could deliver two different artificial amino acids, allowing a single protein to carry two engineered features at different positions

Unlike previous reports, this study engineered the transporter to alter a protein located in the space between the inner and the outer membranes of the bacterial cell. The researchers first identified residues that clamped onto the cargo. Then they prepared mutants of the transporter that would take up 10x more amounts of unconventional amino acids than an unmodified counterpart. This is double the efficiency in the uptake of artificial amino acids when compared to previous studies.

Easier to use

The findings matter because in many standard lab broths, there are already lots of natural peptides floating around, and they all compete for the same transporter, reducing how much of the cargo is smuggled inside the cell. So the researchers evolved the transporter step by step to make sure it worked even in these crowded conditions, repeatedly selecting bacterial cells that imported the artificial amino acids' peptides best. Then they built the improved version into the bacteria's genomes. The resulting system, they reported, was easier to use to produce proteins in a routine way instead of having to carefully control the media (the broths) first.

As Maximilian Fottner, Senior Scientist in Lang's group and a lead author of the study, said in a press note, the study makes it "possible to produce designer proteins containing unnatural amino acids just as efficiently as their natural counterparts". These could be genuinely multifunctional proteins, such as an antibody that carries a drug at one engineered position.

The team also showed that its approach could deliver two different artificial amino acids, allowing a single protein to carry two engineered features at different positions.

Dr. Lang and colleagues are working on designing a similar system in human cells to produce artificial human-like proteins that could be suited for several therapeutic applications. The idea could extend to import molecules other than amino acids to produce complex chemical compounds, she added.

(Joel P. Joseph is a freelance science journalist and researcher. joelpjoseph2009@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT

Slippery slope: An aerial photograph shows waves breaking on the shoreline at the bottom of a cliff damaged by winter storms triggering the fall of pine trees along the Atlantic Ocean in Soulac-sur-Mer, south-western France on March 4. Coastal erosion in the region has also triggered the retreat of the coastline by several meters. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Asteroid YR4: no longer a threat

Vasudevan Mukunth

NASA has officially ruled out the possibility of asteroid 2024 YR4 colliding with the moon in 2032. This update settles concerns that first surfaced after the asteroid's discovery in late 2024. For several months, orbital models suggested a small but notable 3.8% to 4.3% chance that the rock would strike the lunar surface on December 22, 2032.

To resolve the uncertainty, experts from NASA's Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies used the James Webb Space Telescope to track the object. In February, the team made two important observations while the asteroid was extremely faint, a feat impossible for most other observatories. These new data points have reportedly allowed the scientists to refine the asteroid's trajectory with higher precision.

The latest calculations show that 2024 YR4 will safely bypass the moon at a distance of around 21,200 km. This follows an earlier update regarding the earth: while data in early 2025 indicated a potential threat to our planet, subsequent analysis ruled out a terrestrial impact for the next century at least.

Astronomers have said that these shifts in probability are a standard part of planetary defence. When scientists first discover a near-earth object, they must calculate its path using limited information, which often results in a wide range of possible outcomes. As they collect more data over time, they narrow those possibilities down. In the case of the 65-meter-wide 2024 YR4, the newest evidence confirms it is no longer a threat to the earth or its moon.

An artist's impression of an asteroid that orbits closer to the sun than the earth's orbit, showing its dark side. NOIRLAB/J. DA SILVA

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

SFC: Revenue deficit looms over city's new corporations

To manage the deficit and take up development works at the corporation level, the SFC suggests that the corporations adopt tools such as levying an entertainment fees, municipal bonds and more

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Fifth State Finance Commission (SFC) has emphasised that the five new corporations will likely face an aggregate deficit of ₹57,000 crore over the next five years, as per projections in the Boston Consultancy Group report. It also suggested that the government will have to bear part of the burden.

The Fifth SFC report, released on Tuesday, noted that the newly formed corporations will have to take up development works in Bengaluru along with service delivery, which will cost an estimated ₹55,586 crore over the next five years, and that a part of it will have to be borne by the government.

To manage the deficit and take up development works at the corporation level, the commission suggested that the corporations adopt three tools. The primary one is to develop and strengthen their own sources of revenue (OSR), prepare action plans to address the deficit, and look for external sources of income. A few of them are likely to place a burden on citizens' pockets.

The commission has suggested levying an entertainment fee, issuing municipal bonds, and seeking government aid to fill the deficit.

Property tax and CSR

To strengthen sources of revenue, the commission's major suggestion is the regular updating of guidance values and periodic revisions of property tax. It suggested that the corporations verify building licences in the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) records with Bescom's power connection data to crack down on property tax evaders.

To strengthen sources of revenue, the commission has suggested the regular updating of guidance values and periodic revisions of property tax. FILE PHOTO

Further, the commission pointed out that there are 20.46 lakh properties in the GBA area, and nearly five lakh properties have not been evaluated. The commission suggested evaluating these properties and bringing them under the GBA tax scheme, which could fetch an annual ₹600-700 crore in property tax.

To ensure that development works are not halted due to the revenue deficit, the corporations have been asked to raise municipal or even green bonds, making use of the Union Budget's announcement of incentives for issuing bonds. Each corporation is expected to raise ₹200 crore through bonds.

Pointing out that the city has hundreds of multinational companies and industries, the commission has asked the GBA to set up a portal and for each corporation to form a committee to bring in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. To ensure transparency, it has asked for the development of a website or portal.

Aid to corporations

The commission noted that the new corporations face a revenue deficit and also need funds for foundational costs, which should be provided by the government. In particular, it asked the government to aid the west and north corporations.

The commission noted that the West Corporation is larger in area compared to the others, and its population is also higher. However, its property tax collection is lower, estimated at ₹580 crore, the second lowest after the north corporation (₹543 crore). At the same time, the west corporation has 112 wards, compared to about 70 wards in the other corporations.

Nonetheless, the commission asked the government to limit financial assistance to three years and allow the corporations to operate independently thereafter, in line with the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.

Further, the commission estimated a requirement of ₹640 crore for the development of slums, which it suggested should be taken up by the government. It also asked the government to allocate funds for the development of underground drainage systems and solid waste management.

GBA budget

After a decade of delay, the GBA is finally drafting the Revised Master Plan (RMP) for Bengaluru. The commission has suggested that the government allocate ₹15 crore to the GBA for this.

Further, it said the government should allocate ₹35.95 crore to set up and develop geo-local decision and planning systems and an integrated command centre. The GBA also needs ₹35.06 crore to extend IT services, the report said.

DG issues circular to regulate special interview for prisoners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at preventing misuse of provisions allowing special interviews for inmates, Director-General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services) Alok Kumar issued a circular on Monday streamlining the procedure for granting such interviews in prisons across the State.

The circular states that Chapter 31 of the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Manual, 2021, deals with interviews and communication with prisoners, and Para-578 allows special interviews during emergencies or special circumstances with the approval of prison authorities. However, authorities have observed that these provisions are being frequently misused in prisons by inmates with influence.

The circular directs all prison heads to follow a stricter procedure before granting special interviews.

Conditions apply

According to the order, Chief Superintendents, or the Superintendent of prison, may permit special interviews on a case-to-case basis, but only after recording valid reasons in writing, and ensuring that security considerations are not compromised.

Special interviews may be allowed under specific situations, such as serious illness or immobility of a prisoner due to injury, where interviews may be allowed once a month; death or medical emergency in the family, after proper verification; and humanitarian grounds, such as when visitors are pregnant women or persons with disabilities.

Prison authorities have been given the power to terminate interviews at any time if security concerns arise, with reasons to be recorded in writing. FILE PHOTO

Safeguards introduced

The circular lays down several procedural safeguards, including prior written approval from the head of the prison; a security assessment before granting permission; interviews only in a designated room within prison premises under supervision of a prison officer; interview duration not exceeding 30 minutes; and a maximum five visitors, subject to verification.

Prison authorities have been given the power to terminate interviews at any time if security concerns arise, with reasons to be recorded in writing.

Special interviews

The circular further states that any special interview request not covered under the specified circumstances must receive prior written approval from the DGP of Prisons, with applications submitted at least two working days in advance.

All Chief Superintendents and Superintendents of Central, district, open and taluk prisons have been directed to strictly implement the guidelines. The Deputy Inspector General of Prisons of the North and South ranges have been told to monitor compliance.

"The provision regarding special visits to the prisoners was being misused by certain influential prison inmates. The present system of special visit is also in violation of Prison Karnataka Manual, 2022," said Mr. Kumar.

PG Medical: Another round of counselling for vacant seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the seat allotment in the stray vacancy round for postgraduate medical courses, 783 seats are still vacant. To fill these seats, another round of counselling will be conducted today, according to Islamuddin Gadyal, Administrative Officer, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

He stated that candidates who have not been allotted seats in any of the previous rounds can take advantage of this opportunity. Details about which colleges have vacant seats, the courses available, and the fee structure have been published on the KEA website.

Candidates must come to the KEA office in Malleswaram, Bengaluru, before 3 p.m. on March 11 with a Demand Draft (DD) or cheque for the full fee of the course they prefer. The DD or cheque should be drawn in favour of 'Executive Director, Karnataka Examinations Authority, Malleswaram, Bengaluru'.

Only candidates who submit the DD along with all original documents will be allowed to enter their options between 12.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. today. The seat allotment results will be announced at 7 p.m. the same day. Candidates who receive a seat must report to the allotted college by 5.30 p.m. tomorrow, he explained.

INBRIEF

No water crisis: Minister

The State government will not wait till the declaration of drought in areas affected by water shortage, as the government has collected data from the zilla panchayats already, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge told the Legislative Assembly. Stating that a plan will be in place in the next 15 days, he said that the cabinet-subcommittee will meet shortly and a task force will be formed, besides issuing SOP to tackle water shortage. The government has data for 10 to 15 years, based on which possible water regions will be mapped. "Water will be a priority. We will not wait till an area is declared as drought-hit to handle water crisis".

₹77 crore proposal for Mahamasthakabhisheka

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge said that the government has received a proposal for ₹77 crore for various arrangements to be made during the Mahamasthakabhisheka for Bahubali to be held at Karkala. The 12-day Mahamasthakabhisheka is held once in 12 years, and is being held in February 2027. To a suggestion from BJP member V. Sunil Kumar that tourism can be developed around the event that attracts pilgrims from India and abroad, and appointment of a nodal officer, Mr. Kharge said that a committee could be set up to coordinate the event and also appoint nodal officer.

4 drug peddlers arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police have arrested four persons, including three inter-State suspects, for allegedly peddling drugs in different parts of the city.

Separate cases have been registered in the limits of Mahadevapura, K.G. Halli, and Malleswaram Police Stations.

Police said they have recovered 37.4 kg of ganja, 33 grams of hydro ganja, and 23.19 grams of MDMA, collectively valued at around ₹24.12 lakh, with an estimated street value of ₹48.24 lakh.

Efforts are under way to trace the inter-State suppliers who provided the banned substances.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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Advt. No.: 03/26

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The applications in prescribed proforma should reach this office by post latest by 06.04.2026.
The detailed notice and application form for the above vacancy notice may be accessed on RailTel's website https://www.railtel.in/careers.html under 'current job openings' section.
Executive Director/HR

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2	IAV/308/HR/2026-2	VIRAL VACCINES	01
3	IAV/308/HR/2026-3	VIRAL DIAGNOSTICS	01
4	IAV/308/HR/2026-4	ANTIVIRAL DRUG RESEARCH	01
5	IAV/308/HR/2026-5	VIRUS APPLICATIONS	01
6	IAV/308/HR/2026-6	VIRUS EPIDEMIOLOGY, PUBLIC HEALTH AND VECTOR DYNAMICS	01

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2	Field Operation Engineer	BE/ B. Tech in Computer Science/ Electronics & Communication	06	5 Years	Temporary (for 4 Years tenure)	Rs.60,000 (increase of Rs.5000/- for every year)	
3	Project Engineer-I	BE/ B. Tech in Computer Science / Cyber Security / Information Technology / Information Science / Electronics & Communication	12	2 Years	Temporary 3 Years, Extendable upto 1 more year	Rs.40,000 (increase of Rs.5000/- for every year)	

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in China's exports to Russia in first two months of 2026

19.7 in per cent. China's exports to Russia surged in the first two months of 2026, Chinese customs data showed on Tuesday. In February alone, China's shipments to Russia soared 54.7% from the previous year. Russian crude oil shipments to China in January-February nearly doubled from a year ago, said Muyu Xu, a Kpler analyst. REUTERS

Number of women beneficiaries under Assam's govt.'s scheme

40 in lakh. Forty lakh families in Assam on Tuesday received ₹9,000 each under the State government's flagship 'Orunodoi' scheme, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma emphasising that it was a manifestation of the regime's compassionate approach. Under the Orunodoi scheme, one eligible woman beneficiary per family receives ₹1,250 per month. PTI

Number of people displaced in Lebanon as on March 10

6.67 in lakh. The United Nations said Tuesday that more than 100,000 people had been newly displaced within Lebanon in just 24 hours amid the war raging in West Asia. "As of today, more than 667,000 people in Lebanon have now registered on the (Lebanese) government's online platform as displaced," said a UN refugee agency's representative. AFP

Number of MBBS seats approved for the academic year 2025-26

11,682 Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that 43 new medical colleges have been established across the country for the academic year 2025-26. The government has approved 11,682 MBBS seats and 8,967 postgraduate seats, across the country for the same academic year, she said. PTI

Number of alleged atrocities and crimes against SCs in 2023

57,789 More than 57,000 cases of alleged atrocities and crimes against Scheduled Castes were registered across the country in 2023, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. It also said there is no proposal to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. PTI

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'41%' illusion: a quiet re-engineering of India's fiscal federal landscape

16th Finance Commission retained States' share in the divisible pool at 41% even as the divisible pool as a proportion of gross tax revenues has shrunk; various grants have been discontinued; the gap between a State's entitlement and its actual receipt depends on its capacity to meet Central monitoring requirements

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan

An Explanatory Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Finance on February 1, 2026, is seen as a useful document, not only for what it states or approves but also for observing a pattern of what it does not.

The Union government accepted the Sixteenth Finance Commission's (FC's) recommendation to retain the States' share in the divisible pool at 41%. It also accepted the horizontal formula, the local body grants, and the disaster management corpus. However, it deferred everything structural, such as amending the Fiscal Responsibility Legislation, controlling off-budget borrowings, reforming power sector distribution companies, and rationalising subsidies.

This observed asymmetry is not bureaucratic caution. It became the settlement.

The headline number deserves scrutiny before the settlement does. A 41% share sounds like continuity. In nominal terms, it is. But the divisible pool is not gross tax revenues.

Cesses and surcharges, levied and retained entirely by the Union, sit outside the pool, and their share has been growing.

As the FC16 report documents, the divisible pool as a proportion of gross tax revenues averaged 89.2% during the FC13 period, fell to 82.1% during FC14, and dropped further to 78.3% during FC15.

The Commission acknowledges this trend, notes its undesirability, and declines to fix it. Hence, 41% of a shrinking base is not 41% of total collections.

FC16 has also discontinued revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants, and State-specific grants, instruments that offered targeted fiscal relief to States. The Commission projects that combined general government debt will fall from 77.3% of GDP in 2026-27 to 73.1% by 2030-31.

The aggregate trajectory looks orderly. It is the disaggregated picture where the real argument begins.

Drop in shareable revenue

Divisible Pool as % of Gross Tax Revenue (GTR), from 2010-11 to 2025-26

Year	FC period	Divisible pool (% of GTR)	States' share in the divisible pool
2010-11	FC13	89	32%
2011-12	FC13	88.9	32%
2012-13	FC13	89.7	32%
2013-14	FC13	89.3	32%
2014-15	FC13	89.1	32%
2015-16	FC14	86.9	42%
2016-17	FC14	86.2	42%
2017-18	FC14	75.6	42%
2018-19	FC14	81.2	42%
2019-20	FC14	80.9	42%
2020-21	FC15	74	41%
2021-22	FC15	75.3	41%
2022-23	FC15	77.5	41%
2023-24	FC15	79.9	41%
2024-25 RE	FC15	81.9	41%
2025-26 BE	**FC15**	**81.3**	**41%**

Source: CAG certificates from 2010-11 to 2023-24, Union Budgets for remaining years through Figure 7.4 of 16FC Volume I - Main Report

The Union accepts what gives it budgetary predictability: the 41% share, the formula, and the grants. It defers what would require sharing structural authority, fiscal rule reform, off-budget liability controls, and power sector restructuring

Horizontal devolution formula of FC15 vs FC16

Criterion	FC15 weight (2021-2026)	FC16 weight (2026-2031)	Change (*pp)
Income distance (per capita GSDP)	45%	42.50%	-2.5
Population (2011 Census)	15%	17.50%	+2.5
Demographic performance	12.50%	10%	-2.5
Area	15%	10%	-5
Forest cover	10%	10%	—
Tax & fiscal effort	2.50%	Dropped	-2.5
Contribution to GDP	—	10% (New)	+10

*pp- percentage points

Source: Reports of the 15th and 16th Finance Commissions through PRS

THE GIST

- The Union government accepted the Sixteenth Finance Commission's (FC's) recommendation to retain the States' share in the divisible pool at 41%.
- A 41% share sounds like continuity. In nominal terms, it is. But the divisible pool is not gross tax revenues.
- Cesses and surcharges, levied and retained entirely by the Union, sit outside the pool, and their share has been growing.

Structural deferrals

FC16 was aware of the fault lines it chose not to repair. Its chapters on State finances, power sector losses, and subsidies name them directly. The Commission identified States with structurally unsustainable fiscal trajectories. It called for reforms. It attached no binding enforcement mechanism to achieve them.

The most consequential gap is the residual asymmetry left by the end of GST compensation in June 2022. States lost a guaranteed 14% annual growth in SGST revenues without a structural replacement.

Tamil Nadu alone estimated a shortfall of nearly ₹20,000 crore in 2024-25. The Commission reads aggregate SGST buoyancy as evidence of recovery. The distributional stress has not followed.

The second deferral concerns off-budget borrowings and fiscal rules. FC16 documented how States borrow through government-controlled entities and service those liabilities from the budget, keeping them invisible in headline deficit figures.

It is recommended that States discontinue this practice and that the Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL) frameworks be amended.

The Explanatory Memorandum accepted the quantum of borrowing ceilings in principle, then noted that off-budget controls, FRL amendments, and the Union's own fiscal deficit path would be examined separately. That phrase has a history in Indian fiscal federalism. It means not now.

The Commission's own inter-State comparison documents the backdrop. Punjab carried a debt-to-GSDP ratio of 42.9% in 2023-24 and a revenue deficit of 3.7% of GSDP, borrowing primarily to address revenue shortfalls rather than build capital assets.

Rajasthan's outstanding liabilities stood at 37.9% of GSDP, West Bengal's at 38.3%, and Andhra Pradesh's at 34.6%. Each operates under fiscal rules that, by the Commission's own assessment, are effectively unenforced. The recommendation to reform those rules was made. The Union noted it for later.

Rewarding the Centre's priorities

Two choices in FC16's transfer architecture repay close reading.

The first is the replacement of the tax and fiscal effort criterion in the horizontal devolution formula with a contribution to GDP criterion. Under FC15, States received a 2.5% weight based on their own tax revenue efficiency relative to economic capacity, rewarded for trying harder.

The new criterion, assigned a 10% weight, allocates resources in proportion to each State's contribution to national GDP, measured as the square root of its GSDP relative to all States. Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka, large, high-GSDP States that already generate substantial own revenue, benefit structurally from this shift.

Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, which are States with lower per capita incomes and greater fiscal need, do not. This is not a technical adjustment. It is an inversion of equalisation logic: the previous criterion rewarded effort, the new one rewards weight.

The shift from tax & fiscal effort (2.5%) to contribution to GDP (10%) is the defining structural change. The second is the conditionality architecture of the local body grants. The ₹7,91,493 crore recommended for rural and urban local bodies is divided into basic and performance components, with access contingent on entry-level conditions covering constituted bodies, audited accounts, and the timely constitution of State Finance Commissions.

Performance grants add further layers tied to own-source revenue benchmarks and Central database compliance. Each condition is defensible in isolation. Together, they construct a system in which the gap between a State's entitlement and its actual receipt depends on its capacity to meet Central monitoring requirements.

States with weaker governance infrastructure, which tend also to be States with greater fiscal need, face that gap most acutely. The FC15 period offers a precedent, where urban local body grants were released at only 62.6% of the recommended amount.

Read alongside the Commission's report, the Explanatory Memorandum reveals a consistent logic. The Union accepts what gives it budgetary predictability: the 41% share, the formula, and the grants.

It defers what would require sharing structural authority, fiscal rule reform, off-budget liability controls, and power sector restructuring. Where FC16 diagnosed a problem and recommended a remedy, the Union took note. Where FC16 designed a flow and set an amount, the Union accepted it in full.

What makes the FC16 moment distinctive is that it arrives after years of documented State-level fiscal deterioration, the Commission's own data confirms.

Punjab borrows to pay salaries and service existing debt, not to build infrastructure. Andhra Pradesh carries reorganisation-era liabilities that no Finance Commission has resolved. Rajasthan's revenue deficit persists across multiple award periods. The Commission saw each of these. The Memorandum took note.

A federal structure whose transfers increasingly reward economic weight over fiscal need, whose structural stress is deferred cycle after cycle, and whose only reliable outcome is the perpetuation of Centre-State asymmetry is surely not a system in good health. It has somehow learned to look like it is - and that is deeply troubling and unsettling for the fiscal-federal character of India's constitutional republic which can result in long-term implications and an exacerbating civic divide.

Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University, and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES). Nagappan *Arun and* Saksham *Raj contributed to this column from Centre for New Economics Studies,* O.P. Jindal *Global University.*

Pilot for KPS Magnet School gets poor response, teachers served notices

The DSEL is holding teachers responsible for failing to attract students and parents to the KPS Magnet School in Honganuru

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The pilot project of the ambitious Karnataka Public School (KPS Magnet School) in Honganuru, Channapatna taluk, Bengaluru South district, has failed to take off and is resisting severe opposition from parents and villagers on the ground.

Seven government schools from surrounding villages, with a combined strength of 392 students, were to be merged with the KPS in Honganuru. However, only two schools with a total of 22 students have been merged, and of them, only 7 students have begun attending the KPS Magnet School. The merging of schools in the remaining five villages has been strongly opposed by students and parents.

Parents who do not agree with the merger of schools have expressed their opposition to sending their children to the KPS Magnet School. FILE PHOTO

Notices to teachers

However, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has now issued notices to teachers of the schools in the five villages – Hodike Hosahalli, Kannidoddy, Ammallidoddi, Santemogenahalli, and Sunnaghatta – accusing them of failing to convince parents and students about the purpose of KPS Magnet Schools, their benefits, and the facilities available in these schools. "Appropriate action should be taken to issue Transfer Certificates (TCs) to the children by March 11, 2026, after persuading the parents. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action," warned the notices issued to the teachers by Ramalingaiah K., Block Education Officer (BEO) of Channapatna.

Pilot project

The government is planning to start 800 KPS schools across the State to improve the quality of education. It aims to merge nearby schools with these KPS 'Magnet' schools and convert them into schools with good facilities.

The KPS School in Honganuru was chosen as the pilot for this. On October 25, 2025, it was suggested to merge lower and higher primary government schools in seven nearby villages with this school, along with their students, teachers, and furniture. A private bus has been hired to transport the children from the merged schools to the KPS Magnet School in Honganuru. However, parents who do not agree with the merger of schools have expressed their opposition to sending their children to the KPS Magnet School. Additionally, parents and students have staged protests in their villages and at the taluk headquarters in Channapatna.

Currently, only Channankegoudana Doddi School, which has two students, and Mogenahalli Doddi School, which has 20 students, have been merged with KPS Magnet Schools in Honganuru. Out of the 20 students from Mogenahalli Doddi school, only 5 students are going to KPS Magnet School.

The merger of the remaining schools in Hodike Hosahalli with 77 students, Kannidoddi with 82 students, Ammallidoddi with 31 students, Santhemogenahalli with 100 students, and Sunnaghatta with 80 students, has been met with strong opposition.

The DSEL has now held teachers responsible for failing to attract students and parents to the KPS Magnet School in Honganuru.

Deadlock

"Meetings have been held with the parents eight times since November, 2025. However, none of them agrees to the merger and to enrol their children in the KPS Magnet School. Despite reporting this to the department eight times, the BEO is issuing notices again and again. We are stuck in a deadlock between the authorities and the parents. We don't know what to do. No one is listening to our problems," lamented a teacher from a school that is to be merged with the pilot KPS Magnet School.

"The KPS Magnet School project is good. However, parents are opposing the merger of nearby schools. Schools are not just places of education but are also cultural assets of the respective villages. Therefore, the project should be implemented by convincing the villagers with the help of the government, local MLAs, district-level officials, including the Deputy Commissioner and other public representatives," said another teacher.

The AIDSO has expressed strong opposition to the establishment of KPS Magnet Schools. In his statement, Ajay Kamath, State secretary of AIDSO, said the government should heed locals' protests and drop the proposal, and warned that, if not, the struggle would only intensify.

Doctors call off proposed strike as government assures action on demands

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA) on Tuesday called off its proposed indefinite strike that was scheduled to begin on Wednesday, after the State government assured that their demands would be considered in a time-bound manner.

The decision was made after association representatives met with the Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, and other senior Health and Family Welfare Department officials on Tuesday.

According to KGMOA State president Ravindranath M. Meti, the government has agreed to address 13 of the 14 demands raised by the association.

"We have received an assurance from the government that most of our demands will be addressed within a stipulated timeframe. Therefore, for the time being, we have decided to defer our agitation, while keeping the option of future protests open if progress is not made within the promised timeframe," Dr. Meti told *The Hindu*.

The association had earlier warned that government doctors would launch a phased protest beginning on March 11. In the first phase, from March 11 to 15, doctors had planned to stop outpatient services while continuing emergency services. From March 16 onwards, doctors, officers, and employees had proposed to abstain from all duties until their demands were met.

Officials said the government initiated discussions with the association ahead of the strike to prevent disruption of healthcare services across the State.

Among the assurances given by the government is the creation of an Additional Secretary-level post in the department, which would be held by a technical expert. The association has long demanded such a position to ensure that administrative decisions in the department are supported by technical expertise.

In earlier representations to the government, the association had pointed out that the Health Department currently has about 36,397 officers and employees, who provide healthcare services to nearly six crore people in the State. However, vacancies, retirements and delays in recruitment have significantly increased the workload on existing staff.

Key demands

Among the key demands raised by the association are amendments to the Cadre and Recruitment Rules, publication of updated seniority lists, and timely promotions for eligible doctors and staff. According to the association, seniority lists in some cadres have not been revised for nearly 13 years, leading to delays in promotions.

The association has also flagged concerns over the suspension of in-service higher education opportunities for doctors, irregular transfers, and the shortage of medicines in government hospitals.

Another major concern raised by the association is the large number of vacancies in the department, with nearly 40% of sanctioned posts reportedly remaining unfilled.

Many of these sanctioned positions were created based on 1998 population data, the association said, arguing that staffing levels have not kept pace with the State's growing population and healthcare demands.

CID probe ordered into Anekal realtor's abduction, murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday said he has directed the CID to probe the alleged kidnapping and killing of a real estate businessman from Anekal. The accused had abducted him to Tamil Nadu, where he was tortured and then murdered. The Anekal Police have arrested the prime accused, while efforts are being made to track down the others involved.

Mr. Parameshwara was responding to a question raised by Pradeep Eshwar, Congress MLA, in the Legislative Assembly during Zero Hour. "Based on the initial reports we have received, I have instructed that the case be handed over to the CID. The investigation will be carried out by them," he said.

Dermatologists warn against rise in unqualified cosmetic procedures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists Karnataka branch (IADVL-KN) on Tuesday expressed concern over the growing number of unqualified individuals performing dermatology and cosmetic procedures, warning that the trend poses serious risks to patient safety.

IADVL-KN also released a QR code that allows members of the public to identify qualified dermatologists in Karnataka.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Savitha A.S., president of IADVL-KN, said procedures such as hair transplantation, laser treatments, and so on are increasingly being carried out by people without appropriate medical training.

IADVL-KN members said gaps in regulation, easy availability of over-the-counter medicines, and online sale of drugs have also contributed to the problem.

Raising concerns over a public notice issued by the Dental Council of India allowing oral and maxillofacial surgeons to perform hair transplant and certain aesthetic procedures, the association members said dermatology bodies have challenged the move through petitions currently before the High Courts of Madras and Bombay.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11
RISE 06:30 SET 18:30
RISE 00:19 SET 11:46

THURSDAY, MAR. 12
RISE 06:29 SET 18:30
RISE 01:12 SET 12:37

FRIDAY, MAR. 13
RISE 06:28 SET 18:30
RISE 02:03 SET 13:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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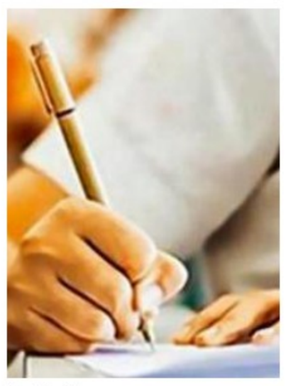
SA-2 exams postponed by DSEL to March 24

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Earlier the exams were scheduled to be held from March 20 to April 4.

Due to a series of holidays in the third week of March, including Ugadi and Id-ul-Fitr, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has postponed the Summative Assessment-2 (SA-2) annual exam for students of classes 6 to 9, which was scheduled to be held from March 20.

In this regard, Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) has announced a revised schedule and has taken steps to conduct SA-2 from March 24 to April 6.

Earlier, it was scheduled to be held from March 20 to April 4. However, the SSLC exams will begin across the State from March 18, and there is a government holiday on March 19 due to Ugadi. There is a 'Varshatodaku' on March 20, a holiday on March 21 for Id, and March 22 is a Sunday.

Therefore, various stakeholders, including parents and teachers, had opposed the examination schedule and urged DSEL to reschedule SA-2 exams for classes 6 to 9. *The Hindu* had reported on the same on Monday.

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NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

'At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its **Bank of Baroda, Domlur Branch.** The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement/documents & creation of mortgage by way deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Assets in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrowers in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice sent by register AD calling upon you, was unserved/not acknowledged, this publication is now issued.

1. Name and Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors: (1) Mr. Jayarama D (Applicant) (2) Mrs. C Amaravathi (Co-applicant), No.9,1ST Cross, 1st Main, Chowdaiah Block, RT Nagar, Bangalore-560032.

Nature of facility & Account No.	Limit	Rates of Interest	O/s as on (inclusive of interest upto 28.02.2026)
Term Loan account no 73720600000610 of for purchase house property under Baroda Home Loan	Rs. 16,55,000/-	11.00%	Rs. 8,46,846.33/- till 28.02.2026 Plus interest from 01.03.2026

Amount Outstanding : Rs. 8,46,846.33 (Rupees Eight Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six and Thirty Three Paise Only) as on **01.03.2025** together with further interest thereon.
NPA Date : 28.02.2026 **Demand Notice Date : 05.03.2026**
Description of the immovable Property:
All that part and parcel of property bearing No.54 & Municipal No.G-211/7, Northern side of Property as per New Bangalore Mahanagara Palike No. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17 (PID No.99-69-12, 99-69-13, 99-69-15, 99-69-16 & 99-69-17) situated at Ward No.99, Palace Guttahalli, Doddabairappa Beedi, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 25 feet and bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Property No.7, South by: Property No. 12, 13 & 14, North by: Road.

2. Name and Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors: (1) Mr.Shashi Shekar(Applicant) (2) Mr. Papanna B R (Co-applicant & Father), (3) Mrs. Leela K (Co-applicant & Mother), No. 10, 1st Main Road, Patel KV Muniswamy Gowda Layout, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024.

Nature of facility & Account No.	Limit	Rates of Interest	O/s as on (inclusive of interest upto 28.02.2026)
Term Loan account no 73720600000685 for Repair, Renovation and In terior under Vijaya Home Loan (NOW Baroda Home Improvement Loan)	Rs. 4,00,000/-	9.65%	Rs.1,58,292.33/- till 28.02.2026 Plus interest from 01.03.2026

Amount Outstanding : Rs.1,58,292.33 (Rupees One Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Two and Thirty Three Paise Only) as on **01.03.2025** together with further interest thereon.
NPA Date : 28.02.2026 **Demand Notice Date : 05.03.2026**
Description of the immovable Property:
All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Residential Site bearing No.10, presently BBMP Katha No.430/392/28/3/10, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, together with a residential building constructed thereon and situated at Kempapura village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now coming under the limits of BBMP. Boundaries: East by: Property no 9, West by: House no 11, North by: 25 feet wide road, South by: House no 21.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date : 10.03.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Bank of Baroda**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thimmaiah S/O,Thimmaiah R/o# 15 15th Cross Meenakshinagar Kamakshipalya Bengaluru- 560079 have changed my name to Thimmarasaiah for all purposes.

I, VINOD Kumar Pandey, S/o Pandey G N, R/at Flat No.802, Tower 2, Navami Funique, Hosa Road Junction, Bengaluru-560100, have changed my name from Vinod Pandey to Vinod Kumar Pandey vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

AFFIDAVIT
I, **PADMAVATHI S V** W/o S Nagara residing at Doddasanne Village and Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist. 562110, today at Ramanagara do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath before Notary T V Indira, Ramanagara dated 10-03-2026, that my correct name is **PADMAVATHI S V** as in my Aadhar Card and Pan Card. But in my Passport my name mentioned as **PADMAVATHI** instead of **PADMAVATHI S V.** above both names belongs to one and same my name Only. and my husband correct name is **S. NAGARAJ** as in my all documents. But in my passport my husband name mentioned as **NAGARAJU S.** instead of **S.NAGARAJ.** above two names are one and same my husband name only.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RUKMANI Devi P R, W/o Prakash Chandra, R/at No.18G, 5th Main, Jayanagar 5th Block, Bangalore-560041, have changed my name from Rukmani Periyapatna Ramakrishna Devi to Rukmani Devi P R vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

KOCHI WATER METRO LIMITED
CAREER
Kochi Water Metro Ltd.(KWML) "Invites application for various posts for its Operations & Maintenance"
(Asst.Boat Master, Boat Operator,Terminal Controller, DM -Finance & Boat Operation Trainee)
For more details and for submission of application log on to www.kochimetro.org/Careers. or www.watermetro.co.in/careers.
Last date of receipt of application is 31st March 2026

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FESTIVAL SALES

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (SDJ-2)AT CUDDALORE (TAMILNADU)
MCOP.NO.998 OF 2023

J.Ganesan,
S/o.Jayanandham,
No.31, Thamaraikulam,
Kizhkarai,Bhuvanagiri,
Cuddalore DT. .... Petitioner
-Vs-
P.Govindaraju,
S/o.Gounder Perumal,
No.2729/A,5th A Main,
17th B Cross, Banshankari,
2nd Stage, Bangalore,
Karnataka State-560070.
.2nd Respondent

NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the above petitioner has filed the above application for compensation of Rs,10,00,000/- for injuries caused by your vehicle (Lorry) bearing Reg. No. KA-05-AG-5535 in R.T.A on 04.12.2022, it stands posted to 09-04-2026 for your appearance. So, you should appear on that date at about 10 a.m before the above court in person or through your advocate to file your objection, else the matter will be decided exparte on your absence.

R.Sureshkumar, B.A.,LL.B.,
Advocate for petitioner, Cuddalore,
Cell No : 9865136891

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF III ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-25)
O.S. No. 8395/2025

BETWEEN : Smt. Sringari Sudhamani W/o Mr. Manjunath .T, Aged about 62 years, Residing at T.S. House, 94, 1st Main Road, Muthyala Nagar, Gokula Extension, Mathikere, Bangalore-560 054. ...Plaintiff
AND: CATENA HOMES INDIA PVT LTD & Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS No. 1

CATENA HOMES INDIA PVT LTD Office at B-1399, Shrilal Pradhan Complex Sangam Vihar, TIGRI T-Point, New Delhi-110080, Represented by Vivek K @ Vivek Keshavan, Director E-mail ID lease@catena.org.in
Also at 39 & 40, 16th Cross, Neeladri Road, Electronic City Phase-1, Neeladri Nagar Bengaluru- 560 100
Registered Office at No.45, Pathy Housing L.O. Electronic City, Bangalore-560 032.
E-mail: keshavanvivek@gmail.com
...Defendant No. 1

Whereas the above named Plaintiff instituted a suit against the Defendants for ejectment of the defendants from the schedule property, directing defendants to quit, vacate and deliver vacant possession of the schedule premises to the Plaintiff.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this **on the 26-3-2026 at 11.00 AM** in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Flat No. F2, which consisting of One Hall, One utility space, Two Bed Room with Two Wash Rooms, One Car Parking, Flat No. F2, in First floor, called Sai Balaji Enclave, in Amar Regency Layout, Munireddy Layout, Horamanavu, Bengaluru - 560 043, Karnataka and bounded on :-
East by : Private Property & Passage down to parking, **West by :** F1 Flat to parking, **North by :** Passage leading to stair case, **South by :** Private Property.
Given under my hand and Seal of the Court, this 06-03-2026.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Advocate for Plaintiff :
Sri. R. Ravi, Advocate
Office No. 21/1-3-2, Between 8th & 9th Cross, 4th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003.
Mobile No. 9845612955

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CACHE

Combined with another innovation — subscriber trunk dialling, or STD — the C-DOT digital switch dramatically improved telecom connectivity across the country. GETTY IMAGES

Lessons from C-DOT saga for technology development in India

The Centre for Development of Telematics heralded a communications revolution by developing indigenous rural telephone exchange technology; however, in the three months of K.P. Unnikrishnan as Minister for Communications, the project was derailed and a mass exodus of scientists began

Dinesh C. Sharma

Former Congress and socialist leader K.P. Unnikrishnan, who passed away at Kozhikode on March 3, was an elected Member of Parliament for six terms between 1971 and 1995. He will be remembered for his long political and parliamentary career spanning several decades and for his public life. Few, however, might recall the impact of his tenure as the Minister for Communications for about three months – from December 1989 to April 1990 – in the short-lived government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh. Unnikrishnan's brief stay in Sanchar Bhawan was marked by controversies that derailed one of the most successful technology development programmes of independent India – the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) – and ended the career of Sam Pitroda as a technology policymaker. Unnikrishnan's crackdown on the telecom R&D organisation, which heralded the communication revolution with its indigenously developed rural telephone exchange technology, was so severe that it could barely recover in later decades.

The communication scenario in India of the 1970s and 1980s was pathetic. Telephone connectivity was very poor. The national waiting list for getting a landline connection stood at 8.42 lakh in 1987, translating into a waiting period of three to four years. The connectivity in rural areas was worse, with just 3% of six lakh villages having a telephone connection. The quality of service was also poor, with high downtime.

The main reason was the dependence on imports for telecom equipment such as switches, transmission lines, and instruments. Multinational telecom companies determined the level and type of technology India needed. The imported analogue exchanges would often break down due to high temperatures and dust. They also could not handle high call volume in India.

In 1980, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi formed a committee to review the telecom infrastructure. An Indian technologist from the U.S. made a radical suggestion before this panel: that India should develop and manufacture a digital switch instead of importing, as favoured by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Over the next few years, this idea crystalised and C-DOT was born in 1986, with Sam Pitroda as its chairman.

Pitroda did not want it to be another government R&D outfit on the lines of existing laboratories and national institutions administered by different ministries. It was formed as an autonomous society, funded by the government but with functional freedom, on the lines of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). The agency was given an assured budget and a tight deadline – ₹36 crore and 36 months – to develop an indigenous switch. The idea was to introduce the next level of technology and do so indigenously. The proposed digital switch was heavily software-based, unlike the prevailing crossbar exchanges.

New work culture

Young engineers and technologists were recruited. They worked as project teams in Bangalore and Delhi. A new work culture was promoted. One American industry analyst wrote, "Young blue-jeaned computer programmers pulling all-nighters, walls peppered with PERT diagrams, weekend retreats, employee counselling programs, and performance-linked awards. But it is not Silicon Valley, it is India. It is not Apple Computer, it is C-DOT run by the government."

But at home, C-DOT and Pitroda faced a hostile bureaucracy and an uncooperative DoT. Questions were raised in Parliament and the press about the working of C-DOT. In response to allegations of financial irregularities and flouting of government rules, inter-governmental committees were quickly formed to review the working of C-DOT, but they did not report any financial wrongdoing.

As promised, C-DOT not only developed the digital rural exchange but also developed several other projects in the given timeframe, as well as novel ways of technology transfer and a base of Indian vendors. All this helped it break the stronghold of American and European telecom suppliers in India. Combined with another innovation – subscriber trunk dialling, or STD – the C-DOT digital switch dramatically improved telecom connectivity across the country, heralding the communications revolution.

When Unnikrishnan took over as the Minister for Communications in December 1989, Pitroda and, because of his association, C-DOT were being targeted by top bureaucracy as well as the political opponents of Rajiv Gandhi. For Gandhi's political adversaries, including those from the Congress party, Pitroda had become an easy target as he was seen influencing key decisions as an important member of the informal group of "Computer Boys" who had direct access to the prime minister. Pitroda helmed Gandhi's pet programme, 'Technology Missions'. In addition, telecom MNCs had been perturbed by the success of C-DOT. All this placed Pitroda and C-DOT in a tight spot as Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress were voted out.

On the very first day of taking over as the minister, Unnikrishnan publicly humiliated Pitroda, purportedly for being late in receiving him when he arrived at Sanchar Bhawan. Within a week, he formed a high level expert committee headed by K.P.P. Nambiar, former chairman of Indian Telephone Industries, to investigate C-DOT. It included all eight members of the inter-departmental committee that had gone into the performance of C-DOT twice in 1986 and 1988 and cleared it. G.B. Meemansi, executive director of C-DOT, was also made a member. Nambiar then formed a one-man subcommittee specifically to review C-DOT's purchases.

"The deliberations, during the Expert Committee meetings, while reviewing the findings of the sub-committee, showed a planned witch-hunt instead of an honest review of the work put in by C-DOT. An air of gloom and uncertainty started hanging over 600 young C-DOTians," Meemansi later recalled in his memoirs. He and three other members of the committee gave a dissent note. Nambiar did not include the note in his final report and submitted it quickly to Unnikrishnan before the decided date. When the dissent note was submitted to Unnikrishnan, he called it a "parallel report" and refused to make it a part of the report submitted by Nambiar. The Nambiar report was also submitted during the weekend. On the next working day, Unnikrishnan issued orders sacking from C-DOT two of the four members – Meemansi and D.R. Mahajan – who had written the dissenting note. Two weeks later, Unnikrishnan was divested of the communications portfolio and replaced by Janeshwar Mishra.

The three-month tenure of Unnikrishnan as the Communications Minister at a critical point in technology development and dissemination derailed the whole indigenisation project. Though C-DOT eventually delivered 10,000-line and 40,000-line exchanges as promised, the momentum it generated for innovation and product development was lost. Rattled by the shabby treatment of the founders and mentors like Pitroda and Meemansi, several young engineers marched to the Prime Minister's residence in Delhi, and staged a walkout when Unnikrishnan went to address them in Bangalore.

Mass exodus of scientists

Within a few months C-DOT reported a mass exodus of scientists and engineers, making it a classic case of brain drain. Many were readily recruited by multinational telecom firms, which made a comeback in the post-1991 liberalisation years, while others became entrepreneurs.

The episode has many lessons that are still relevant four decades later. Indigenous technology development needs unstinted support from the political as well as administrative apparatus, irrespective of a change in political dispensation. The development teams and organisations involved need functional autonomy and freedom from mundane bureaucratic restrictions. Technology development is risky business and cannot be tied down by traditional yardsticks of time and cost-overruns as well as failures. Young talent is an essential raw material and it needs to be retained and nurtured in every way possible. Product development remains the holy grail of technology business in India, and there is a lot to learn from the history of technology development here.

Dinesh C. Sharma is a New Delhi-based journalist and author, and has written books on India's post-1947 science and technology journey.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 2020, WHO declared COVID a pandemic. Here's a quiz on people who died during the outbreak

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

This person was to Satyajit Ray what Toshiro Mifune was to Akira Kurosawa and Robert De Niro was to Martin Scorsese. While his filmography is almost entirely in Bengali, he did direct the Hindi feature "Stree ki patra". Name him.

QUESTION 2

Name the Chinese ophthalmologist who was one of the first whistleblowers to warn about the initial COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

QUESTION 3

This Olympian legend from India came from a difficult childhood and was even arrested for travelling ticketless in a train as a teenager. Thanks to his entry into the army, he became a major athlete and one of India's pioneering post-Independence achievers in sport. Name him.

QUESTION 4

Before dying due to COVID-19 related complications, this person sang a song called, "Bharath Bhoomi", composed by Ilaiyaraaja and dedicated to frontline workers such as healthcare professionals, police, nurses, etc. Name this legendary playback singer.

QUESTION 5

This cricketer was the first in Test cricket to have scored more than 2,000 runs without a century (highest of 97). Name this former opening batsman who also joined politics and later became a BJP MP and a state government minister?

This person will be forever remembered for lying to the U.N. Security Council about the presence of "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq. Name him.

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz on T20 World Cup:

1. Besides Sanju Samson, which Indian won two player-of-the- match awards? **Ans: Hardik Pandya**
2. Which country did Yuvraj Samra play for? **Ans: Canada**
3. Apart from Samson, which other Indian got more than 300 runs? **Ans: Ishan Kishan**
4. How did the Scots Matthew Cross, Michael Leask, and Oliver Davidson make news on February 7? **Ans: The three batters were the victims in West Indian Romario Shepherd's hat-trick, the only one of the tournament.**
5. Name the lone Pakistani and West Indian in the ICC's Team of the tournament. **Ans: Sahibzada Farhan and Jason Holder respectively.**
6. What was the prize money (in U.S. Dollars) that India took home for emerging the champion? **Ans: $3 million**
7. Which other teams, apart from New Zealand (2021 and 2026), have lost two summit clashes? **Ans: Pakistan (2007, 2022) and Sri Lanka (2009, 2012).**

Name this American joint highest wicket-taker till the final where Varun and Bumrah went ahead by one wicket to tally 14 scalps. **Ans: Shadley Van Schalkwyk**

Early Birds: Neha Mahendru| Shailmil Naaz| Varghese Joseph| Sadhan Panda

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Is it time to celebrate? Did your client pay you well?"

"He paid me all right! He paid me a monkey's allowance."

"A monkey's allowance? I didn't know that monkeys got an allowance!"

"They do, sometimes. Tell me, what does a monkey get from its master once it has performed in front of an audience?"

"Nothing, as far as I know. Maybe the master gives the animal some peanuts."

"Exactly! He gives the poor animal something to eat. That's all. So when you say that you received a monkey's allowance from someone, it means that you got paid a trifling amount for the work that you did."

"I see. So, is it O.K. to say, I received a monkey's allowance for the job?"

"It certainly is. I was given a monkey's allowance for helping my uncle clean his garage."

"Most of us are usually given..."

"...Would you please stop monkeying around with the remote."

"Monkeying around? Does it mean the same thing as fool around?"

"Very good. When you 'monkey around' with something, or someone, you fool around or play around with it/them. For example, the children were monkeying around with an old screwdriver."

"Some of my friends were monkeying around in the playground. How does that sound?"

"Sounds fine. Stop monkeying around with the scooter and start doing your homework."

"Talking about scooters, what happened to yours? The seats are all torn up. And the..."

"...there are a lot of monkeys in the place where I work. And..."

"...of course there are. I am looking at one of the monkeys right now."

"Ha! Ha! Very funny. Only one monkey recognises another, by the way. Anyway, as I was telling you, there are real monkeys on campus. And they tore up the seat."

"I see. You have monkeys going about their business outside the office. I understand there is also monkey business going on in the office."

"Do you know what monkey business means?"

"Of course, I do. It means a mischievous or an illegal activity of some kind."

"That's right. The students have been awfully quiet for some time now. I have a feeling that there is some monkey business going on."

"Some people believe that there is some monkey business between your Chairman and the General Manager."

"It's not just the Chairman. A lot of people are..."

"...Sujatha's father believes..."

"...How is he, by the way? Is he, like Sujatha, still making a monkey out of you?"

"Making a monkey out of me? What do you mean?"

"When you make a monkey out of someone, you make a fool out of him/her. For example, Sreenivas got so drunk at the party that he made a monkey out of himself."

"At school, all my friends try and make a monkey out of Venkat."

"It doesn't take much to make a monkey out of poor Venkat."

Published in The Hindu on November 16, 1999

Word of the day

Fortuitous:
occurring by happy chance

Synonyms: causeless, uncaused

Usage: *It was a fortuitous meeting that led to a lifelong friendship*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/fortuitous

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fɔːˈtjuːɪ.təs/, /fɔːˈʧuːɪ.təs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA

(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004

गति शक्ति विश्वविद्यालय

(रेल मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के आधीन केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)
लालबाग, वडोदरा, गुजरात 390004

GSV/Acad/Admissions-2026 11.03.2026

ADMISSION NOTICE: AY 2026-27

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara is a Central University established by an Act of Parliament vide Central Universities (Amendment) Act 2022. The University is sponsored by the Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India. Being a University of first of-its-kind, GSV focuses on transport and logistics related education, multidisciplinary research and with a big mandate for executive training.

Applications are invited for admission to the following academic programmes across Engineering and Management disciplines for the AY 2026-27:

Discipline	Level	Program	Duration	No. of Seats	Entrance Test
Technology	Under-graduate (Regular Programs)	B.Tech. in Civil Engineering (Specialization: Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	**JEE (Main) 2026 Admission** through JOSAA. Visit JOSAA website **https://josaa.nic.in/** for details.
		B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Specialization: Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering (Specialization: Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering (Specialization: Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization: Transportation and Logistics)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Aviation Engineering	4 Year	40	
		B.Tech. in Maritime Engineering	4 Year	30	
Management	Post-Graduate (Regular Programs)	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	MBA (LSCM) - CUET-PG/ XAT / CAT / MAT
		MBA (Ports and Shipping Logistics)	2 Year	30	MBA (PSL) - IMU-CET / CUET-PG / XAT / CAT / MAT
Technology/ Management	Doctoral (Regular Programs)	Ph.D (Engineering / Management) with a focus on Transportation & Logistics			**GSV Entrance Test**

Executive Programs - Exclusively for Working Professionals

Discipline	Level	Program	Duration	No. of Seats	Entrance Test
Technology	Post-Graduate	M.Tech (Intelligent Transport Systems)	3 Year	30	**GSV Entrance Test**
		M.Tech (Railway Engineering)	3 Year	30	
		M.Tech (Bridge and Tunnel Engineering)	3 Year	30	
		M.Tech (Roads and Highway Engineering)	3 Year	30	
Management	Post-Graduate	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	**GSV Entrance Test**
		MBA (Multi-modal Transportation)	2 Year	30	
		MBA (Metro Rail Management)	2 Year	30	
		MBA (Aviation and Operations Management)	2 Year	30	
		MBA (Infrastructure Asset Management)	2 Year	30	
		MBA (Digital Maritime)	2 Year	20	
Technology/ Management	Doctoral	Ph.D (Engineering / Management) with a focus on Transportation & Logistics (Exclusively for Working Professionals in Govt. / Industry / PSU, R&D organisations, Laboratories, Defence Forces, NGOs, and Banking / Finance Institutions)			**GSV Entrance Test**

For Application procedure and detailed information, visit the University website: **https://gsv.ac.in**

Contact us at: **admissions@gsv.ac.in** for any admission related query / information

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The only University in India exclusively focused on transport and logistics education.
- Multi-disciplinary programmes based on demand-driven curriculum addressing industry needs.
- Innovation Led & Industry Driven University with strong emphasis on industry connect.
- Collaborations with top Industry and Higher Education Institutes.
- Highly experiential and unique interdisciplinary pedagogical approach incorporating latest technologies.
- Financial support to Meritorious and needy students - (a) through GSV Financial Aid (upto 20% of students); (b) Corporate scholarships (Airbus, Siemens, CWC, Plasser, etc.)
- High-quality and experienced faculty with global exposure.
- Focus on 21st century skills: communication, critical thinking, innovation and design thinking.
- Project-based teaching-learning and well-structured internships at Indian Railway establishments and other sector-specific organizations.
- State of the art railways facilities and lab infrastructure.
- Excellent Hostel facilities for the UG students, female PG students, and PhD Research Scholars (for regular students only).
- Career Development Centre that enables professional development and career planning.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಟಿ–ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 020.

ಸಂ.: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/706/2025–26 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.03.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ

ವಿಷಯ: ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಡುವಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ "ಫೆರಿಫರಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಭಾಗ–2 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ NNA(Not Notified Area) ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/4/ಬೆಂಭೂಸ್ವಾ/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ.06.03.2026

ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಡುವಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಫೆರಿಫರಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಭಾಗ–2 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ NNA(Not Notified Area) ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ದಾಸನಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಮಾಚೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಕೊಡಿಗೇಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಚನಪುರ, ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 4 ಎಕರೆ 06.08 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.19(1)ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ.06.03.2026ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದ 187ನೇ ಪುಟದ ಭಾಗ–3ರಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.03.2026 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ:

Sl. No.	Name of the Khathedars/ Anubhavadars.Smts./ Sriyuths	Sy. No.	Hissa	Whether/ Dry/ Wet/ Garden	Total Extent		Kharab Land		Remaining Extent		Assessment Rs.Ps	Extent Proposed for Acquisition		Boundari By			
					A	G	A	G	A	G		A	G	East	West	North	South
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9	10		14	15	16	17
Village : Machohalli									**Hobli:Dasanapura**							**Taluk : Bangalore North**	
1	Meenakshi W/o H. Manjunath, Rashmi K.M bin H Manjunatha, Devika K.M.bin H Manjunath (Joint)	134	2	Dry	1	29	0	2	1	27	1.96	0	10	134/2 Remaining	134/1	135	Kodigehalli boundry
2	M.Puttaraju S/o late MariyappaM.Channakeshava S/o late Mariyappa	135	1	Dry	4	31	0	5	4	26	5.45	0	19.12	135/1 Remaining	135 Remaining	Pipe line	134
3	Meenakshi W/o H. Manjunath, Rashmi K.M bin H Manjunatha, Devika K.M.bin H Manjunath (Joint)	135	2	Dry	1	22.08	0	0	1	22.08	1.82	0	31.08	135/2 Remaining	135/1	Pipe line	134
Village : Kodigehalli									**Hobli :Yeshwanthapura**							**Taluk : Bangalore North**	
4	Kadaiah S/o Karebyrappa, C. Narayana S/o Chinnappa, Smt Bharathi R. Shetty, Saraswathi S.Shetty, T. Manjunatha Prasad S/o Thimmaiah, Premakhanna S/o Ganesha Khanna, U.Keshavashetty S/o Madaiahshetti, Babu Ishmil S/o Khasim, V.K.Gangaiah S/o Kapanaiah, R.V. Gangahanumaiah S/o late Venkataiah,G Adikeshvan S/o Guruswamy Naidu, Kanthraju S/o late Hombalaiah Urf Gundappa, Kantaraju S/o late Gundappa,Sandya W/o Chandrakumar, S. M.Mukhiyar S/o late Siddik Pasha, Gangahanumaiah R.V. S/o late Venkataiah, V.K. Gangaiah S/o Kapanaiah Premakumari W/o Hanumanthaiah,Lakshmmma W/o late Rangaswamaiah	**55**	**2**	Dry	**16**	**0**	**1**	**20**	**15**	**3**	**9.5**	**0**	**12**	Remaining land of Sy. No.55/2 P.R.R-2	**P.R.R Road Sheege halli gadi**	Sy. No.53	Remaining land of Sy. No.55/2
5	H.B. Boregowda S/o H.B. Boraiah	156	7	Dry	1	11	0	6	1	5	1.66	0	7	Remaining land of Sy. No.156/7	P.R.R Road Sy.No.53	Machohalli Gadi	Remaining land of Sy. No.53
Village : Sheegehalli									**Hobli:Yeshvanthapura**							**Taluk : Bangalore North**	
6	Sairaghava Selfar for Animal	74	3	Dry	0	28	0	0	0	28	0.95	0	5.8	74/1	74/3 Remaining	71	74/2
Village : Kannalli									**Hobli: Yeshvanthapura**							**Taluk : Bangalore North**	
7	**Shivananda**	**57**	**1**	Dry	**0**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**19**	**0.60**	**0**	**0.08**	57/1 Remaining	57/1 PRR-2	58/1	57/2
8	**Vasanth kumar K**	**57**	**2**	Dry	**0**	**23**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**23**	**0.73**	**0**	**0.08**	57/2 Remaining	57/2 PRR-2	57/1	58/1
9	Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa,Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa, Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa, Bhu.pa	58	1	Dry	3	17.08	0	2.05	3	15	4.25	0	14	58/1 Remaining	58/1 PRR-2	58/4	57/1
10	Channamaregowda S/o Channigappa,Channamaregowda S/o Channigappa, Bhu.pa	58	6	Dry	3	16.08	0	1.08	3	15	4.25	0	9	58/6 Remaining	58/6 PRR-2	58/1	58/10
11	B.Pushvathamma W/o S.Shantharaju	68	6	Dry	0	20	0	0	0	20	0.68	0	5				
Village : Kenchanapura									**Hobli: Kengeri**							**Taluk : Bangalore south**	
12	Govindappa S/o late Hanumanarasaiah , Anjinamma @ Tayamma bin late Dasegowda	55	—	Dry	5	6	0	1	5	5	6.5	0	10	55 PRR-2	55 Remaining	45	56
13	Channamma W/o late Puttaiah, M. Narasimhaswamy S/o Muniyappa, Chandrappa S/o late Krishnappa, C. Gowramma W/o M. Channegowda	77	—	Dry	2	27	0	2	2	25	3.5	0	9	77 Remaining	77 PRR-2	58	Sulikere Gadi
Village : Sulikere									**Hobli:Kengeri**							**Taluk : Bangalore South.**	
14	Nagaraju S/o late Gangahanumaiah	3	8A2	Dry	0	20.12	0	12	0	20	0.57	0	6	3/8A2 P RR-2	3/8A1	3/10	3/6, 3/7
15	Chetan Vidyasagar Pichamuttu S/o Sundar Raj Pichamuttu, H.Nagaraju S/o Hosalappa H. Renukaprasad S/o Hosalappa H.Shivakumaraiah S/o Hosalappa,V.B.Ramakrishna, Sadashivaiah S.R S/o late Revanna	44	1	Dry	1	5	0	1	1	4	4	0	0.9.12	44/1 Remaining	44/1 PRR-2	43	45
Village : Kommaghatta									**Hobli:Kengeri**							**Taluk : Bangalore South.**	
16	Paramashivaiah S/o late Veeranna	143	—	Dry	4	0	0	0	4	0	5-00	0	1	143 Remaining	64	64	144
17	M/s Padmashri Charitable Trust for Sathish and Dr. Ashwathnarayan C.N	144	—	Dry	4	0	0	0	4	0	4.53	0	16	144	144PRR-2 Remaining	143	145
										Total		**4**	**6.08**				

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಸದರಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ.9 & 10 ರಡಿ ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ. 9 & 10ರಡಿ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ತಲುಪದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೇ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ತಕರಾರು ಏನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ/ತಕರಾರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಾಗದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಏನು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ, ಕಾನೂನು ರೀತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ ವಾಟ್ಸಪ್: 94831 66622 (24x7). @BDAOfficialGoK

ಸಹಿ/–ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

M BG-BGE

IISc professor becomes second Indian woman to summit world's highest volcanic peak

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has summited the Nevado Ojos del Salado, which is the highest volcanic peak in the world and the highest mountain in Chile.

By submitting to Nevado Ojos del Salado, which is 6,893 meters, on March 6, Arpita Patra, professor at IISc's Department of Computer Science and Automation, became the second Indian woman to achieve this feat.

Challenging climb

Prof. Patra said that Ojos del Salado, located deep in the Atacama Desert, was by far the most challenging climb she has undertaken.

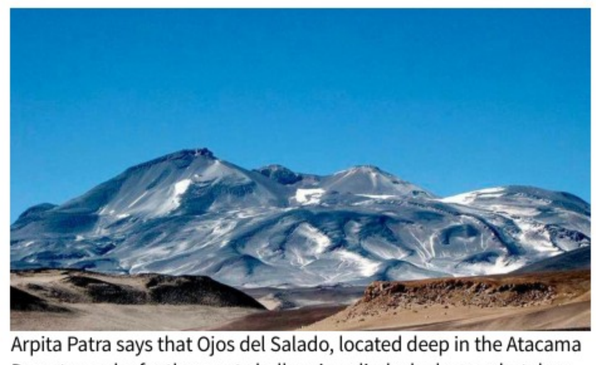
"The expedition took me to nearly 7000 meters, the highest altitude I have ever reached. Conditions were extremely cold and harsh. The ascent was long and exhausting, culminating in a technical rock-climbing section in the final 50 meters before the summit. With this climb, I became the second Indian woman to reach the summit," Prof. Patra said. Prior to this, she had climbed the highest volcanic peaks of four continents, which are Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) in Africa, Mt. Elbrus (5,642 meters) in Europe, Mt. Giluwe (4,367 meters) in Oceania, and Pico de Orizaba (5,636 meters) in North America.

"This ascent marks a major milestone in my mountaineering journey. So far, I have climbed the highest volcanic peaks of five continents, and when I climbed Mt. Giluwe in May 2025, I became the first Indian woman to summit the peak and also became the second Indian woman to summit the Pico de Orizaba in October 2025," she added.

Balancing act

"I am not a full-time mountaineer. My primary professional role is that of a full professor at the IISc. Balancing these two seemingly orthogonal pursuits, rigorous academic research and high-altitude mountaineering, has been both challenging and deeply fulfilling," she said.

"In this journey, I have been fortunate to be guided by Satyarup Siddhanta, a renowned mountaineer who holds several records, including Guinness World Records," she added.



Arpita Patra says that Ojos del Salado, located deep in the Atacama Desert, was by far the most challenging climb she has undertaken.

Fake policemen rob Bengaluru realtor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police arrested three persons who allegedly posed as police officers to rob a real estate businessman. They recovered 429 gm of gold ornaments and ₹10 lakh in cash, valued at ₹52.9 lakh from the accused.

The incident

According to police, the victim, H. Hombalayya, 53, a resident of B.E.L Layout under Byadarahalli Police Station limits on Magadi Road, lodged a complaint on February 16 stating the on the day of the crime, a man dressed in a police uniform, who introduced himself as a sub-inspector, visited their house and sought permission to check the CCTV camera footage in connection with a crime. Soon after entering, he allegdly called his accomplice inside, and the duo allegedly locked the main door, threatened the couple with a knife, tied their hands, and robbed them of gold ornaments, cash, and two mobile phones.

Based on the complaint, the Byadarahalli Police registered a robbery case and launched an investigation. During the probe, they found that one of the accused was an acquaintance of the realtor, which helped the gang plan the crime. The police learned that a habitual offender had come out on parole from Hindalga Central Prison in Belagavi, took part in the robbery, and later returned to the prison. Another accused allegedly orchestrated the robbery sitting inside the prison.

Farmers' team to visit Maharashtra to study AI

MYSURU: A team of farmers from Karnataka will visit Maharashtra in April this year to study Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based agriculture technologies adopted by the farmers of the neighbouring State, as discussed at a meeting held here on Tuesday.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

M DAYALAN (66), Retired Senior Supervisor, Despatch, The Hindu, M M Nagar passed away on 09-March-2026. Address: 145, 7th Street, Sharma Nagar, Vyasarpadi, Chennai - 600039. Ph: 9176380526

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/21/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	**Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Mahadevapura-1 division (Package-24) Call-03**	1,898.76	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.17,99,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **15.03.2026** before **5:30 pm.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **16.03.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **25.03.2026** before **5:30 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026** after **5:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/6168/CCL/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/22/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transporation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Mahadevapura-2 Division (Package-25) **Call-03.**	**1,865.37**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 17,65,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries :**15.03.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/6148/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/24/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only) Call-03

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Yeshwanthpura-1 division (Package - 28) Call-03	1,457.77	Rs.1,00,000/- **through e payment mode** under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs 14,00,000/- by bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal : **15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting :**16.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs at above mentioned office.** 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17.30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/6166/AKAR/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2025-26/2279
Date : 06.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under Head of Account 4702-PLAN-LIS(CMIDP) Siruguppa taluk 04 works in Two Cover System Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.51.29 lakhs Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.95.21 lakhs the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from date : 07.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 18.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 20.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Any other information should get by login the website "KPPP" website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1108/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ , ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-1. ದೂ.ಸಂ.: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.: ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2025-26/2899 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಮತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು KW-2/3 STD ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Work Indents	Work value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30970/Call-3	49.59
2	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30968/Call-3	49.59
3	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT33865	44.70

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 23.03.2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.03.2026 ರಂದೇ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿ)
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ-ಪಿ.ಪಿ/6123/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-94/3889/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure for Manufacturing / Assembly of Electricity Vehicle Component, battery pack assembly, charging infrastructure and testing centre at plot no.1B of EV Block, Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/6153/Zen/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED ELCOT
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6100 | viyan@elcot.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - NOTICE
Ref: ELCOT-FPP-Viyan-2026-01

ELCOT invites "Request for proposal (RFP) for the participation and collaboration of leading industry partners, academic institutions and technology providers to collaborate in the Development, Operation, and Management of state-of-the-art facility "Viyan AVGC-XR Centre of Excellence (CoE). For further details, please visit **elcot.tn.gov.in** or **tntenders.gov.in**. Pre-bid meeting: **18.03.2026,** 11:00 am. Last date for submission of proposals: **16.04.2026**, 3:00 pm. For queries: viyan@elcot.in.

DIPR/1709/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 3rdFloor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051 E-mail : dgm4bswml25@gmail.com

No. DGM-4/ BSWML/ Tend/ 07/ 2025-26 Date:10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

1)The Deputy General Manager-4, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites fresh proposals from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract. **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from 11.03.2026. **3)** Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approximate Amount put to tender including GST (in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs)
1	Disposal of festival waste during Karaga Festival 2026, in old ward no 119 Dharmarayaswamy Temple, Chikpete Division	**Rs.13.00**	**Rs.32,500**

Calendar of Events: 1. Last Date for receipt of Tenders is **17.03.2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 2.** Date of Opening of Technical bids are on **18.03.2026 by 4.30 p.m. or next working day.**

DIPR/CP/6126/NR/2025-26 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-4, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/27/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-2division (Package-31) Call-03	**1,859.56**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 17,60,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries in KPP Portal: **15.03.2026 upto 17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs at above mentioned office. 3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/6151/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/28/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Byatarayanapura division (Package-33) Call-03	**2,265.34**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 21,65,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries in KPP Portal: **15.03.2026 upto 17:30 hrs.** 2) Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs at above mentioned office. 3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/6152/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/25/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transporation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Yeshwanthpura-2 division (Package-29) **Call-03.**	**1,569.52**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. .14,70,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries :**15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/6149/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

DKS hosts dinner to mark 6 years as State Congress chief

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says his deputy's sagacity, ideological commitment and hard work is a model for young leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah greeting Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, at a dinner meeting, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Amid the ongoing leadership tussle in the Congress government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah led the partymen, legislators and Cabinet Ministers on Tuesday in congratulating Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar completed six years as president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

Mr. Shivakumar, who took over as the KPCC president in the COVID-19 times, led the party to power in the 2023 Assembly elections.

'Model for youngsters'

Congratulating Mr. Shivakumar on completing six years at the helm of KPCC, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the KPCC president's sagacity, ideological commitment and hard work is a model for young leaders.

"Despite the Opposition BJP filing false cases and harassment, Mr. Shivakumar remained loyal to the Congress that shows his trait of uncompromising loyalty. He has worked hard along with leaders and workers to defeat communal forces and bring Congress party to power. He has stood shoulder to shoulder with me to make the State Sarva Janangada Shanthiya Thota," he said on social media platform X.

Further, he said, "Mr. Shivakumar, who is younger than me, has a bright political future. It is our wish to bring Congress back to power in 2028. I too will take part in the party's organisation and struggle for this."

On Tuesday evening, the Deputy Chief Minister had organised a dinner party at a luxury hotel in the city to celebrate the milestone in which over 120 legislators, including almost all the Cabinet Ministers, took part. Sources said that folk singers from Kanakapura entertained the guests.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shivakumar thanked veteran Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for having appointed him as KPCC president. "After everything I have seen in politics, one's conviction has only grown stronger. I was born a Congressman. And I will remain a Congressman until my last day," he wrote in a signed post.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "Because the legislature session is under way, a big celebratory event has been postponed and a dinner party has been arranged for legislators."

When asked about his wish to become the Chief Minister, he refused to comment. "I am discharging the duties and responsibilities given to me by the party," he said.

Special cabinet meet to discuss internal quota on March 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government, under pressure from Dalit left groups over implementing internal reservation in the 15% quota for Scheduled Castes, has convened a special Cabinet meet on March 27 to discuss the issue.

The discussion on the subject was inconclusive during the last Cabinet meeting as Dalit Ministers in the Cabinet could not arrive at a consensus, following which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah deferred the discussion to a special Cabinet.

While the Dalit right (Holeyas) are believed to be opposed to the internal reservation within 15% quota, the Dalit left (Madigas) are insisting that the recruitment to 56,432 posts should be held with internal reservation. Backchannel talks are learnt to be under way to arrive at a consensus before the Cabinet takes up the matter for discussion.

Meanwhile, as the government grapples with the 56% reservation issue as it exceeds the Supreme Court-mandated cap of 50%, G. Kumar Naik, Raichur MP, has written to Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar to initiate action to include the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, that provides reservation for SCs and STs at 17% and 7%, respectively, under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. He has urged the Minister to take up the discussion during the ongoing Parliament session.

With the government deciding to revert to 50% reservation cap due to ongoing court cases against 56% reservation, the nayakas/Valmikis are upset as their quota would come down from 7% to 3% while quota for SCs will come down from 17% to 15%.

PSI cracks civil service exams with AIR 641

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sagar Ashwathappa, currently serving as a Police Sub-Inspector (Civil) in Mandya, has cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025, securing All India Rank (AIR) 641.

Sagar is a native of Kolar district. With his ranking, he will likely not get IAS or IPS postings, which he said he aspires for. "I am happy that I made it, but I want to try again to get into the IAS. I will attempt the exam one more time," he told *The Hindu*.

Youth from Rajasthan held for theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police have arrested a notorious burglar from Rajasthan who allegedly targeted locked houses at night to steal valuables. They seized 1.833 kg of diamonds and gold ornaments worth about ₹3 crore from the accused, identified as Vallaram Meena alias Sunil, 19, a native of Salumbar district.

According to the police, Sethu Mahadeva, a resident of R.T. Nagar, lodged a complaint with the Yelahanka police on February 16 stating that burglars allegedly broke open the terrace door of the house of his relative in Judicial Layout, Yelahanka, on the night of February 15, and stole the valuables, when the residents were away in the U.S. The Yelahanka police registered a case. They traced the accused to Managiri village within Gingla police station limits in Rajasthan. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to the crime and revealed that he had kept the stolen jewellery at his residence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Mr. Anil Kumar Rajagopal S/o. Rajagopal.N, had lost the original Sale Deeds dated: 27-07-1989, registered as document No.3883/89-80 of Book-1, Pages 16 to 19, Volume 3179, Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk and Document No.2859/82-83 of Book-1 Pages 164 to 167, Volume 704, dated: 18-11-1982, in respect of the Schedule Property and lodged complaint to the concerned Police authorities vide Lost Article Report No.2101128/2026/2025, dated: 10-03-2026.

That my client hereby request the General Public that if the said documents are traced by them, kindly return to my client or his said Advocate.

SCHEDULE PROPERY

Property No.6/1, Khatha No.363, situated at Nayanappa setty palya, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring: East to West: 28 feet and North to South 44 feet and bounded on the:

East by : New No.5, Site No.18,
West by : New No.7, Site No.5,
North by : Road,
South by : Private Property

A Manjunath Advocate
No.924, 28th Main,
9th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore-560 069

Date : 10.03.2026
Place: Bangalore

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender Notice No. 39-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract for Roller Bearing Cleaning Plant make : M/s. Ultra Max Hydro jet Pvt Ltd. Chennai of Wheel Shop including concomitant accessories for a period of 05 Years at CRWS. Hubballi through open tender.	Rs. 32,93,104/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 24-03-2026**

Tender Notice No. 41-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Statutory mandates related to safety as per Factory act 1948 and ISO 450001:2008 at Carriage Repair Workshop Hubballi.	Rs. 23,12,800/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 24-03-2026**

Tender Notice No. 42-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for "Coil Spring Scragging and Load Deflection Testing Machine" of Make : ASCO RAIL for the period 05 years.	Rs. 18,88,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:30 Hrs on 25-03-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Workshop Manager
PUB/978/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

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BANYAN TREE PRESENTS
SYMPHONY of SANTOOR
Echoes of Serenity
Ancient Strings ~ Modern Calm
Rahul Shivkumar Sharma
with a 35-Chamber Orchestra
Conducted by Samuel Tamarit Otero
of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice
Accompanied by
Avinash Chandrachud, Ojas Adhiya, Vinayak Pol, Manish Kulkarni
BENGALURU
Wednesday, 18th March 2026 | 8:00 pm
Maanikya Hall, Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal Main Road
To book Tickets scan this QR
GET TICKETS ON district
Details for group booking:
9323930139 / 9323119381
marketing@banyantreeevents.com

Exoneration in dept. inquiry will not automatically eclipse criminal prosecution in every bribery case: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The exoneration in the departmental inquiry will not eclipse the trial in every criminal case, particularly the cases in which public servants are caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount with *prima facie* proofs like recorded conversation, evidencing demand or forensic corroboration of demand, etc., said the High Court of Karnataka.

In essence, departmental exoneration may influence, but does not automatically extinguish, criminal prosecution. Each case turns on its own factual and evidentiary matrix and the criminal case must be tested in the crucible of full-fledged trial under the stricter standard of proof, the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while refusing to quash the criminal case against petitioner Geeta R., superintendent in the office of Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chitradurga. She was caught red-handed in July 2018 while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from the complainant for registering a cooperative society.

However, the inquiry officer attached to the office of the Lokayukta, in his report on the departmental inquiry in 2023, had exonerated her as the complainant had turned hostile, stating that he had not paid the bribe and it was claimed that money received by her was related to a certain hand loan from relatives. She filed the petition for quashing the criminal case, citing exoneration in the departmental inquiry.

There exists "no straight-jacketed formula" that mandates obliteration of criminal proceedings once exonerated in departmental proceedings, merely because both actions arise from the same factual foundation, the court said.

In cases where the trap has failed or where there is absence of direct evidence of demand and acceptance, the court said, an exoneration in departmental inquiry of the kind may indeed bear upon the sustainability on the criminal proceedings.

However, where *prima facie* evidence of demand and acceptance exists, and where the amount is recovered from the hands of the delinquent employee/accused, when caught red-handed receiving the tainted currency and the trap mahazar draws or documents all that is necessary to be done to prove demand and acceptance, the court clarified, it would become *prima facie* evidence of demand and acceptance, and such cases must be tested in the crucible of a full-fledged trial.

In the case of the petitioner, the court said that she has to come out clean in a full-blown trial, which is in progress.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that: **Mr. HARISHA,** aged about 46 years, S/o V. Papanna, residing at No.05/01, 1st Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Munnekolala, Bangalore – 560037, and **Mr. MADHUBABU D. RAMAREDDY,** aged about 40 years, S/o Ramareddy, residing at Spectra Palmwoods Apartments, Siddhapura, Bangalore – 560066 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Owners"), are the absolute owners in lawful possession and enjoyment of the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder.

The Owners have acquired the Schedule Property under a registered Sale Deed dated 17.11.2022, registered as Document No. BDH-1-06053-2022-23, Book No. I, stored in CD No. BDHD1167, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Bidarahalli), executed by the duly constituted and registered GPA (Document No. 174/2022-23 dated 29.04.2022 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Indiranagar) Holder of the original land owner Sri Rajendra Singh Thakur.

Pursuant to the said Sale Deed, the Owners are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property, and the revenue records / khatha stand in their names. But it has come to the knowledge of the Owners that certain unauthorized persons are attempting to interfere with the Schedule Property and create documents in respect thereof. Appropriate legal steps have been initiated.

The General Public is hereby cautioned not to enter into any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property with any person other than the above Owners.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to submit the same with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no such claim exists, and the Owners shall proceed to take appropriate legal action against any person interfering with their lawful possession.

Any transaction entered into in contravention of this notice shall be at the sole risk, cost and consequences of the persons concerned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural dry land bearing **Survey No.131/2,** formerly portion of **Survey No.131,** measuring to an extent of 1 Acre, situated at **Nagondanahalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** and bounded on:

East by : Property of Smt.Krishnamma
West by : Pattandur Village Boundary
North by : Government Land
South by : Hagadur Boundary and Road

Mallika & Associates,
Advocates,
No. 430, DSK Building, 2nd Floor, Varthur Road, Ramagondanahalli, Opp. to DNR Corp Atmosphere Apartment, Whitefield, Bangalore – 560066. Ph.No. +91-8496986344.

Place: Bangalore Date: 10.03.2026

Government of India
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
Govenment of India Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services Debt Recovery Tribunal - II Karnataka (Bengaluru)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road
Bengaluru Pincode -560 001

RC/1102/2024
IN OA NO. 1375/2020

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D. Dasti Failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993 & RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Versus
SRI SIDDARAJU

In the Matter of
(CH) UNION BANK OF INDIA
(Erstwhile Corporation Bank)
Branch office at
Sri Kamakshi Complex
Budakeri Road
Opp. Kanakapura Bus Stand
Ramanagara Dist - 562117.
Karnataka **... Certificate Holder**

(CD 1) SRI SIDDARAJU
S/o Sri Anke Gowda
Resident of Belikothanur Village
Kanakapura Taluk
Ramanagara - 562117
Karnataka - 591317
..... Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT-2) in **OA/1113/2018** an amount of **Rs. 17,23,490.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 10% Simple Interest yearly w.e.f. **14/06/2018** till realization in full and costs of **Rs. 20,000/- (RupeesTwenty Thousand Only)** has become due from the Certificate Debtor.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this notice for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this

Date 03-02-2025.

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 to the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (Amended from time to time) which is reproduced as under : "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the debts recovery officer nor shall be any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter or any debt, divided or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 Years.

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT 2)

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly.

The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars where from the recovery of the debt is to be made.

'IISc study showed no negative impact of treated water supplied to Chickballapur and Kolar'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seeking to allay fears about the quality of treated water being supplied to Kolar and Chickballapur districts for filling up tanks, the government on Tuesday noted that the IISc, which is monitoring water quality, had found no presence of any harmful elements in the water so far. The government announced that it would organise a meeting of legislators from these districts with experts from the IISc.

The issue was raised in the Assembly during the Question Hour by JD(S) member Samruddhi V. Manjunath, who displayed two bottles of water and alleged that contaminated water being supplied to them was harmful to humans, animals, and plants as it was being subjected to only secondary waste treatment.

The government announced that it would organise a meeting of legislators from these districts with experts from the IISc

Replying to him, Science and Technology Minister N.S. Boseraju made it clear to the members that the treated water from Bengaluru's K.C. Valley was being supplied to them only for indirect usage, like filling up tanks, and not for drinking requirements.

The Society for Innovation of the IISc had studied the impact of the project and filed a report in July 2023, he said. The report had concluded that "the outcome of the study indicated no negative impact on soil properties when using indirectly recharged groundwater. A significant positive impact was reduced soil salinity in the impacted area. No microbiological contamination in terms of pathogens was found on tested soil and crop samples. Hence, indirectly recharged groundwater using secondary treated water could be safely used as an alternative source for irrigation, overcoming the concerns of heavy metal and micro contaminants and pathogens associated with the direct use of partially treated or untreated mixed municipal wastewater for irrigation".

However, the government would organise a meeting between the experts of the IISc and legislators from the districts where the treated water is being supplied so that they could directly confirm to themselves from the experts about the situation, he said. Intervening in the reply, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda expressed displeasure over levelling baseless charges for political reasons without scientific evidence. Mr. Gowda asked politicians to desist from creating confusion among people by spreading false information.

He recalled that presidents of the World Bank and United Nations had visited the projected area and hailed the authorities for taking up such a project. The World Bank had also given loan to the State to extend the project, he pointed out.

Deloitte opens cyber security facility in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deloitte, one of the Big Four firms based in London, has opened ConnectSafe, a cybersecurity facility in Bengaluru to safeguard connected ecosystems from cyber threats and attacks.

Claimed to be the first such facility in India, this facility will focus on safeguarding lives and critical infrastructure, instead of focusing only on data protection.

"Our cyber security facility enables organisations to proactively test, validate, and secure next-generation systems, from micro-level components to large-scale infrastructure," said Gaurav Shukla, Partner and Leader for the Cyber division, Deloitte South Asia.

SFC for 5% of GST revenue allocation to municipal bodies

The Fifth State Finance Commission says such a measure will help increase the revenue of municipal bodies by 52% and will help in linking their revenue with the State's economic growth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to ensure mobilisation of resources for infrastructure development and civic services in urban areas, the Fifth State Finance Commission has recommended that the State government earmark a minimum of 5% of its total GST revenue generated in cities to Urban Local Self Governments, including those coming under Greater Bengaluru Authority.

In its report tabled in the State Legislature on Tuesday, the three-member commission led by former MP Dr. C. Narayanaswamy has observed that the revenue of the municipal bodies would increase by 52% if they get at least 5% share of the State's GST revenue.

This would help in linking the revenue of the municipal bodies with the State's economic growth, states the commission.

The commission has indicated that its recommendation stems from estimates that urban areas account for 70% of the State's total GST revenue.

Interestingly, this is similar to Karnataka's argument before the Centre

The commission has indicated that its recommendation stems from estimates that urban areas account for 70% of the State's total GST revenue. FILE PHOTO

IN THE LEGISLATURE

that it should get a higher share of GST returns as it is the second highest GST revenue contributor in the country.

Bengaluru revenue

With respect to Bengaluru, the commission has observed that the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority make significant contributions to the industries and services sectors, which in turn positively impact State GST. The commission has estimated that the revenue of these five city corporations will increase by over 40 per cent if they get at least 5 per cent share of the assigned GST revenue in their jurisdiction, considering that Bengaluru accounts for 60 per cent of the State's total GST revenue.

Observing that it has not been possible to get adequate revenue in the form of rents from the properties belonging to the municipal bodies, and the license fee for private advertisement hoardings, the commission has stated.

has recommended that the State government adopt innovative policies to formulate competitive land lease/ rent models like other States. Particularly focusing on rents from municipal properties and the license fee for advertisement hoardings, the commission has said this sector has the potential to yield high revenue.

Taking decentralisation to the next level, the commission has recommended the adoption of ward-wise devolution of funds in city corporations to handle natural disasters and communicable diseases.

Natural disasters

The commission has observed that cities are becoming vulnerable to natural disasters like flooding in low-lying areas during heavy rains and the spread of communicable diseases due to thick population, as the cities are the centres of economic development, and Karnataka is one of the States witnessing fast urbanisation.Hence, measures to prevent the recurrence of such natural disasters and ensuring of funds to back them are important, the commission has stated.

Loan burden on each person in State has touched ₹1.12L: R. Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Tuesday claimed that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's "indiscriminate borrowing" had resulted in every individual in Karnataka having a loan burden of ₹1,12,400.

With a total borrowing of ₹4.36 lakh crore during his earlier and present stint, Mr. Siddaramaiah would account for 52.23% of the State's total debt, Mr. Ashok alleged, while participating in a debate on demand for grants for various departments under the State Budget.

Earlier CMs

Despite the compulsion to borrow during the COVID period, the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's borrowing of ₹1.63 lakh crore had accounted for 19.61%, while ₹1.01 lakh crore borrowings of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy accounted

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok speaking at the Assembly session in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for 12.15% and ₹67,000 crore borrowing of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had accounted for 8.03%, he claimed.

The three years' borrowings since the Congress returned to power in 2023 itself accounted for ₹2.46 lakh crore, which would translate into ₹227 crore a day and ₹9.5 crore an hour, he pointed out.

The huge borrowings had resulted in the State being made to pay huge repayment of ₹45,600 crore a year that would translate into ₹125 crore a day and ₹5.2 crore an hour, he pointed out.

Over the years

The loan burden of each individual in Karnataka that had stood at ₹19,000 in 2013 before Mr. Siddaramaiah became the Chief Minister for the first time, had increased to ₹37,000 when Mr. Siddaramaiah stepped down. This burden, which stood at ₹76,100 in 2023 before Mr. Siddaramaiah became the Chief Minister for the second time, had now increased to ₹1,12,400 by March 2026, he said.

This had pushed the State to the verge of "financial bankruptcy" as the State was spending heavily at a rate of more than ₹5 crore an hour to service the debts rather than create new assets or look into the welfare of its citizens.

Mr. Ashok pointed out that though the government had earmarked about ₹43,000 crore for SCP/ TSP for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes respectively, around ₹13,000 crore will be utilised to fund guarantees, and around ₹30,000 crore will be left for the welfare of the SC/ STs. "Money is being diverted to wildlife conservation, construction of buildings and even formulating IT policy. How is wildlife connected to SC welfare?" he asked.

Quoting from figures upto January 27 for the current fiscal, he said that though ₹29,872 crore had been allocated to SC welfare, only ₹16,699 crore had been released, of which ₹15,391 crore had been spent. Of the ₹11,900 crore earmarked for tribal welfare, ₹6,521 crore has been released, of which ₹6,002 crore has been spent. He listed out categories of workers who have not been paid salaries for several months.

Accepted Finance portfolio for the first time at Deve Gowda's insistence, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday acknowledged that it was because of the insistence of the then Chief Minister H.D. Deve Gowda that he took on the responsibility of the Finance portfolio in 1994.

"I was keen to handle the Revenue portfolio. But senior leader R.L. Jalappa opted for it at a meeting to decide the portfolio allocation after Mr. Gowda became the Chief Minister. Hence, Mr. Gowda persuaded me to take up the Finance portfolio, saying that he wanted someone trustworthy to handle it. Though I did not know anything about finances, I took up the portfolio as he insisted," the Chief Minister told the State Legislative Assembly while intervening during a debate on the State Budget 2026-27 presented by him.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has presented 17 State Budgets so far, said this incident had resulted in his continuing with that portfolio subsequently.

A file photo of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda having a word with then Deputy Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a JD(S) executive party meeting in Bengaluru in 2004.

Bouquet and brickbat

Referring to this, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked that Mr. Siddaramaiah should at least thank Mr. Gowda for his vision in choosing him for the job.

Mr. Ashok displayed a copy of the first State Budget presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah for 1995-96 and hailed it as a Budget that had "weight". Pointing out that some people had ridiculed Mr. Siddaramaiah then by remarking that a person who could not count sheep had been chosen for the job of presenting the State Budget, Mr. Ashok said Mr. Siddaramaiah had then given a befitting reply to them by presenting a quality Budget with vision. But the present Budget presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah was a poor shadow of his first Budget, he remarked.

Four Bills, including one on manuscripts, tabled in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill seeks to establish the the State manuscripts authority to achieve these objectives

The State Legislative Assembly on Tuesday saw tabling of four Bills, including the Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill that seeks to provide for the survey, documentation, conservation, digitisation, research, publication, and public access of manuscripts in the State.

Tabled by Law and Parliamentary and Tourism Minister H.K. Patil, the Bill seeks to establish the Karnataka Manuscripts Authority to achieve these objectives.

The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill that seeks to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is maintained and protect voters from coercion, intimidation, and undue influence in the wake of the government's decision to go for ballot papers in the elections to local bodies instead of EVMs was also tabled. The Bill seeks to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner, reflecting the democratic will of the people under Article 326 of the Constitution.

The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to include the reasons such as misconduct and dereliction of duty as reasons that could come in the way of ensuring a minimum tenure of two years for police officers, was also tabled.

The Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill that seeks to provide allowances and other service conditions to Lokayukta on a par with those of the judges of Supreme Court or the chief justice of the High Court was tabled in the Assembly.

Opposition questions DKS's silence on State Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition members wondered why Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is eyeing the Chief Minister's post, desisted from making any comment on the State Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

"You did not even attend the Pre-Budget meetings held by Mr. Siddaramaiah related to the two

D.K. Shivakumar

departments being held by you. Also, you have desisted from making any comments on the State Budget. You have neither praised nor criticised it. What is the reason?" BJP member V. Sunil Kumar asked Mr. Shivakumar in the Assembly on Tuesday.

In a lighter vein, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said that Mr. Shivakumar had shared his detailed comments on the Budget with the Congress high command during his recent visit to Delhi. "Whatever he wanted to tell, he has told the right people," Mr. Ashok remarked.

No violation in allotment of sites for Cong. Bhavans, says Byrathi Suresh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urban Development and Town Planning Minister Byrathi Suresh on Tuesday said that there has been no violation in the allotment of sites for the construction of Congress Bhavans in different parts of Karnataka.

Replying to a question by BJP member D.S. Arun in the Legislative Council, the Minister said that civic amenity sites have been allotted for the construction of Congress party offices in accordance with decisions taken by the State Cabinet.

The Legislative Council witnessed a heated debate over the allotment of land for the Congress Bhavans, with the Opposition members terming it "daylight robbery" by the ruling party, while the Minister defended the allotment, stating that even the BJP had got civic amenities sites allotted for organisational work.

Mr. Suresh clarified that no civic amenity sites have been allotted for this purpose in Chamarajanagar, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada districts. He said no complaints have been received alleging violation of rules in the allotment process.

Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning Byrathi Suresh speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"As no complaints have been received regarding violation of law in the allotment process, it is clear that all procedures have been followed as per rules," the Minister said.

Digital payment

Mr. Suresh informed the House that steps will be taken to introduce a digital payment system in Indira Canteens.

Replying to a question by member Jagadev Guttedar, the Minister said that food is being supplied in Indira Canteens based on the requirements and food habits of the respective regions. If any disruption in supply occurs, the district Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to take immediate corrective action, he said.

The Minister said that work on the continuous water supply project in the Kalaburagi City Corporation limits is in progress and is expected to be completed by 2027. Responding to a question by member Sunil Vallyapur, Mr. Suresh said the project is being implemented at a cost of ₹837 crore. The work had been delayed due to factors including the COVID-19 pandemic and issues related to land transfer from the Railways, he said. He added that a penalty of about ₹60 crore has been imposed on the contractor for the delay.

Govt. will consider raising pension for acid attack survivors to ₹50,000: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday told the Legislative Council that the State government would consider increasing the monthly pension for acid attack survivors to ₹50,000 from the existing ₹10,000 and take additional measures to support their rehabilitation.

Responding to a discussion initiated by nominated Congress member K. Shivakumar on the plight of acid attack victims, Mr. Parameshwara said the government was conscious of the difficulties faced by survivors and that he would place the matter before the Chief Minister. "I will prevail upon the Chief Minister to increase the pension to ₹50,000," he said.

At present, acid attack survivors are getting a monthly pension of ₹10,000. Of the 169 survivors identified in the State, 59 have been receiving the pension, while the remaining cases are under process, he said.

Mr. Parameshwara said the government has been extending various forms of support to acid attack victims and would take steps to simplify procedures to ensure that survivors are able to access benefits more easily.

On the demand for housing for the victims, the Minister said the Karnataka Slum Development Board and Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation have already recommended allotment of houses to them.

The Minister said the government would examine ways to regulate the sale of acid more effectively.

Low conviction rate

Addressing concerns raised in the House regarding the low conviction rate in such cases, Mr. Parameshwara said the issue would be examined and measures would be discussed with the departments concerned to improve the rate of conviction.

On employment support, he said ₹2 crore has already been set aside for rehabilitation measures for acid attack survivors. While interest-free loans are currently available, the government would examine the possibility of providing grants instead.

G. Parameshwara speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Mr. Parameshwara said One Stop Centres have been established to assist victims, and police have been instructed to ensure free and fair registration of FIRs. Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar said there are 169 acid attack survivors in the State and urged the government to provide housing, employment opportunities, and free medical treatment, including plastic surgery, to help them rebuild their lives. He said the survivors are asked to submit the FIR copy and other identity cards to avail themselves of benefits. However, the police stations where the FIRs had been filed have destroyed the old FIRs.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar suggested that fast-track courts be considered for handling such cases. Labour Minister Santosh Lad said his department would consider helping the survivors through the State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board.

Police detain Kavitha, Dalit leader at protest site in Khammam

P Sridhar
KHAMMAM

The police shifting K. Kavitha from the site of protest.

Telangana Jagruthi president Kalvakuntla Kavitha and Dalit Shakthi Programme State president Visharadan Maharaj, who were on a hunger strike in Khammam, were detained by the police and shifted to Hyderabad on Tuesday.

The two leaders launched the protest at Ambedkar Bhavan in Khammam on Monday night seeking justice for the poor, displaced families of Vinoba Navodaya Colony, Velugumatla in Khammam city, affected by the recent demolitions.

According to sources, a strong posse of police reached Ambedkar Bhavan around 5.45 a.m. and detained them before shifting them to the State capital.

Sources said Ms. Kavitha will continue her fast at the Telangana Jagruthi office in Hyderabad in support of the demand of the displaced people for new houses at the same site.

Nearly 600 houses were razed in the drive. While officials say the action was taken to clear unauthorised structures, many of the displaced families said they hold pattas issued by the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Bhoodan Board.

Don't do work on ground for now on Sharavathi project: HC

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on the petition filed by Akhilesh Chipli of Shivamogga and two others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday directed the State government and the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) not to carry out any work on ground for the ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi pumped storage hydroelectric project in forest areas within the Sharavathi Valley Lion Macaque Sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone, until further orders.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on the petition filed by Akhilesh Chipli of Shivamogga and two others.

Earlier, Additional Solicitor General of India K. Arvind Kamath pointed out to the Bench that the Union government has some concerns about the project while pointing out that no approval has been given for the project as of now, even though the National Board of Wildlife had given in-principle approval for the project.

However, senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa said that the restrictions imposed under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for destruction of sanctuary, will not cause any impediment to take up the proposed project in the sanctuary area as no endangered monkeys are found in the project area within the sanctuary or its eco-sensitive zone.

Meanwhile, State Advocate General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty contended that the petition is premature as the Union government has not yet granted approval for the project.

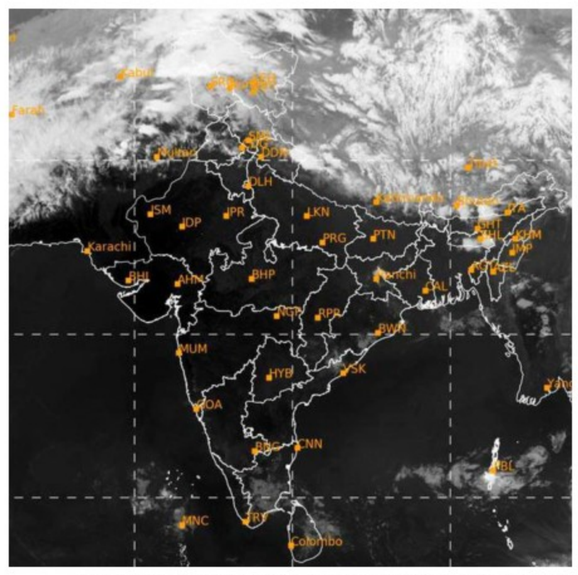
To a query by the Bench on certain preparatory works being carried out in the project area as was claimed in the petition, the A-G said there is no such possibility of taking up works in the absence of approval for the project by the Centre. However, the Bench orally said since the issues raised in the petitions require examination, the court does not want a situation of taking up any work in the project in the event of project approval by the Centre during pendency of the petition.

In the petition, it has been contended that destruction within sanctuary is permissible only for "improvement and better management of wildlife" in the sanctuary, and the present power project cannot be termed as betterment of wildlife.

The petitioners questioned the legality of approval given by the granted by the State Wildlife Board in January 2025 and the in-principle approval granted by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in June 2025.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Muzaffarabad. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.4	20.6	Kozhikode	—	35.3	26.8
Ahmedabad	—	41.4	23.1	Kurnool	—	35.5	23.5
Aizawl	2	30.0	18.2	Lucknow	—	34.2	22.0
Allahabad	—	35.4	20.5	Madurai	—	36.0	22.0
Bengaluru	—	31.0	19.0	Mangaluru	—	34.8	25.6
Bhopal	—	36.2	14.4	Mumbai	—	40.0	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	33.3	23.6	Mysuru	—	32.6	20.2
Chandigarh	—	32.4	19.3	New Delhi	—	35.5	18.8
Chennai	—	33.5	22.5	Patna	—	32.0	24.0
Coimbatore	—	33.2	21.8	Port Blair	—	32.4	26.3
Dehradun	—	31.0	20.3	Puducherry	—	31.0	22.6
Gangtok	9	22.2	12.4	Pune	—	37.8	22.2
Goa	—	34.4	25.1	Raipur	—	38.6	23.0
Guwahati	—	33.4	19.5	Ranchi	—	30.1	19.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	0.9	21.9	12.5
Hyderabad	—	33.6	23.5	Shimla	—	25.7	15.8
Imphal	0.8	29.8	14.8	Srinagar	3	17.6	10.2
Jaipur	—	37.5	20.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.1	23.4
Kochi	—	32.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	31.3	22.4
Kohima	—	16.6	13.9	Vijayawada	—	34.6	21.5
Kolkata	—	32.3	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.8	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	100	78	27	94	138	
Bengaluru	4	15	38	164	154	
Chennai	17	10	17	96	77	
Delhi	17	104	81	301	335	
Hyderabad	3	9	56	82	108	
Kolkata	11	31	14	68	122	
Lucknow	11	40	29	260	269	
Mumbai	13	78	46	117	132	
Pune	—	78	33	265	214	
Visakhapatnam	13	67	18	104	131	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 340 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

T.N. Assembly polls: Vijay begins interviewing TVK ticket aspirants

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVK president Vijay on Tuesday began interviewing prospective candidates for the upcoming Assembly election.

Mr. Vijay, who arrived at the party headquarters at Panaiyur on the outskirts of Chennai in the morning, held one-on-one interviews with ticket aspirants from various districts. A total of 55 functionaries, who had expressed a wish to contest the Assembly election, were interviewed by Mr. Vijay on the first day, party sources said.

Mr. Nirmalkumar said the CBI, which is probing the Karur stampede case in which 41 people were killed during a TVK event in September last year, had summoned Mr. Vijay to appear before the agency in New Delhi on March 15. He said the fresh summons was received on Tuesday.

Earlier, Mr. Vijay was summoned by the agency to appear before it in New Delhi on Tuesday, in response to which the party had sought a 15-day extension, besides requesting the agency to record his statement in Chennai.

Kerala High Court issues notice to Dileep, others in actor rape case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday issued notices to actor Dileep and others in the actor rape case, a fortnight after the Kerala government filed a petition challenging their acquittal.

The government in its appeal also sought enhancement of the punishment awarded to the convicts.

The government's contention was that the acquittal of Mr. Dileep and three others by the Ernakulam Sessions Court was "illegal and contrary to the evidence on record". "The judgment was illegal and unsustainable, and liable to be set aside and modified," it said.

The sentence awarded was "highly disproportionate and inadequate, considering the nature of the offences, the manner of execution, and the terror created in society," the government said. It said the trial court failed to "undertake a comprehensive and holistic evaluation of the prosecution evidence in its entirety" against all the accused who were charged with the same offences, for being members of the criminal conspiracy.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3997 Date: 02-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through KPCL **valid KPWD registered class III & above contractors (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for the work of **"Providing water proof treatment with minor repairs to Lift pits of Unit-1 to 8 & Mill reject pits and emergency oil collection pits of Transformer areas of Unit-2 to 8 at RTPS".** Work completion period: **04 Months.** For any other information contact **Executive Engineer (PCM-2),** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Dist Raichur during Office hours, **Mobile: 9449596582.**

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

S. P. D. C. No. B1 / 0498 / 2026 **e-TENDER NOTICE**

e-TENDER is invited for the following work in Two Cover System ás per details furnished below.

Development of Pedestrian Plaza in Dn 177 - Zone 13 & Dn 182 - Zone 14 - Work

Value of Rs. **14,44,14,000/-** (inclusive of GST @**18%**)-E.M.D. Rs. **14,45,000/-**

Tender document will be available in website: **https://tntenders.gov.in**

EMD Amount through online net banking transaction on e-tender portal only.

Tender last date and time of submission: **15.04.2026** up to **3.00 p.m.**
Tender opening date and time : **16.04.2026** at **3.00 p.m.**

DIPR / 1692 / Tender / 2026 **Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)**

SBI State Bank of India
RACPC- SECTOR -B, NEAR RAM RAM BANK CHAURAHA, ALIGANJ, LUCKNOW

POSSESSION NOTICE {for immovable property}

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of the **State Bank of India, RACPC,** Lucknow under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, mentioned in the notice plus interest and other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the date mentioned against the account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India, RACPC** for the amounts and interest thereon. Details of properties where possession had been taken is as follows:

S. No.	NAME & ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/ A/C NO./BRANCH	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED	Amount O/S [as per U/S 13(2)]	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE POSSESSION DATE
1.	**BORROWER : Mrs. Anshika Tiwari W/o Shri Parivesh Dhariwal** R/o 592 Jha/294, Rathindra Nagar, Telibagh, Lucknow 226029 **A/c No.:** 40664889234, 40664887157 & 42159362286 **Branch:** RDSO (13427), Lucknow	Flat-003, Ground Floor, Block A Almeria Wing 2 AHAD Excellencia Sy No.-58/1, 59/4 & 60 Chikkanayakanahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore-560035, **Total property measuring 1434 Square Feet or Super feet or 133.19 Sq.mts. of Super Built up carpet area of 1018.45 Square Feet or 94.62 sq.mts, covered area 134.34 sq.mts. Boundaries:- East:** Land bearing Sy No. 58/2, **West:** Land bearing Sy No. 59/3, **North:** Land bearing Sy No. 61 & 62, **South:** Road and land bearing Sy No. 50.	**₹ 92,58,230.00** as on 10.12.2025 + Interest and other charges	09.12.2025 07.03.2026

Date : 11.03.2026 Place : Lucknow AUTHORIZED OFFICER, STATE BANK OF INDIA

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-TENDER NOTICE

CMRL invites tender through CPP Portal **(https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)** from eligible firms who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document under Single Stage Two Cover (Technical & Financial) system for the work mentioned below:

Tender No. CMRL/CP/TDR-65-CS-DPR/2026 "Consultancy Assignment for preparation of Detailed Project Report for Multi - Modal Integration within 500 m Radius of 41 Phase - I Metro Stations of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)".

(i) Bid Document available from: 14 Mar 2026

(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 13 Apr 2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), please visit: **www.chennaimetrorail.org.**

Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only in the CPP Portal and will not be published through newspapers.

Sd/-
For Managing Director
Director (Projects)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/1685/TENDER/2026

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: pdretail@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Ref.: BMRCL/A (PD)/RO-18/2025-26 Dated.: 10.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KPP Portal Ref. No.: BMRCL/2025-26/SE0037

BMRCL Tender No.: BMRCL/A(PD)/RO-18/2025-26 Dated.: 10.03.2026

Name of the Tender: Selection of Licensee for Retail Outlets at Madavara, Yashwanthapura, Mantri Square Sampige Road, KR Market, Banashankari & Pattandur Agrarahara Metro Stations of BMRCL.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from interested agencies via e-Tender through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for licensing of retail outlet spaces available at above said Metro Stations. The key dates of Tender is as mentioned below.

1	Tender Notification No. and date	BMRCL/A(PD)/RO-18/2025-26, Dtd.:10.03.2026
2	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)	10.03.2026
3	Last date for seeking clarification if any	17.03.2026 before 5:30 P.M.
4	Date of Pre-bid Meeting and venue	18.03.2026 at 11:30 A.M. at BMRCL Conference hall, 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shantinagara, Bengaluru-560 027.
5	Last date and time for uploading of Bid in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform	25.03.2026 before 5:00 P.M.
6	Date and time of opening of tenders Technical Bid & Technical Evaluation	26.03.2026 at 5:30 P.M.

Note: The Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) organises training in "e-bidding". Prospective bidders are adviced to make use of this facility. For more information, contact KPPP help desk **9240214000 / 9240214001**

Sd/- Director (Finance), BMRCL

IN THE HON'BLE 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL COURT MYO HALL, AT BANGALORE
O.S.2511/20245

Between

Sri.D.Prakash Kumar,
Aged about 46 years,
Son of Devashikamani,
Residing at No.23, Prakruthi Farms,
Anangalapura Village, Doddagubbi Post,
Bangalore - 560077 Plaintiff

AND

Smt.Sophia Riyaz Khan & Another Defendants

Summon/Notice under order V Rule 20 of the Civil Procedure Code to Defendant No.2:

Sri.Riyaz Ahmed Khan, Major,
Father's Name not known to the plaintiff,
No.7, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560042

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against the defendants for Possession of the below mentioned Schedule II Property situated in the Schedule I Property and other reliefs as stated in the Plaint and Defendant No.2 in the above suit is hereby summoned by this Hon'ble Court either in person or through duly instructed counsel on **25th March 2026 at 11.00 A.M.** before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge Hall No.58, Mayo Hall, Bangalore to answer all the material questions relating to the above suit failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence by placing you ex-parte.

SCHEDULE I PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of immovable Property bearing portion of Corporation Old No.36-C, New Municipal No.07, situated at N No.Street Dickenson Road, Civil Station now comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.81, having PID No.81-6-7, Bangalore measuring as East to West 31.00 feet and North to South 64.52 feet in all totally measuring 2,000 Square feet and bounded on the East by Old No.36-B, New No.8, West by Private Property of Sorabhai, North by N No.2 Street; and South by Remaining portion of same Municipal No.7.

The Schedule Property consists of Ground Floor measuring Seven (7) squares, First Floor measuring Seven (7) squares and Second Floor measuring Six (6) Squares of R C C roofed building constructed with cement and bricks, red oxide flouring, doors and windows ae made with jungle wood with all civic amenities.

SCHEDULE II PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of Shop premises by name M/s.Kashmir Industries situated in the land and building of the property bearing No.36-C, New Municipal No.07 situated in N No.2 Street, Dickenson Street, measuring about 220 square feet and bounded on the East by Private Property; West by in occupation of the tenant, M/s.Hindustan Enterprises under Sri.D.Prakash Kumnar; North by Remaining portion of the same Municipal No.7, belonging to Sri.D.Prakash Kumnar; South by Dickenson Road.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court on this day 2md March 2026.

By order of the Court,
Sd/- Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall,
Bangalore

Sd/-
Advocate for Plaintiff:
K.T.Anand, Advocate,
No.07, Charles Campbell Road,
Cox Town Extension,
Bangalore - 560005

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/20/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	**Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Bangalore South-1 division (Package-20) Call-03**	1,438.14	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.14,00,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **15.03.2026** before **5:30 pm.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **16.03.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **25.03.2026** before **5:30 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026** after **5:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6169/CCL/2025-26

Strategic blunder

The U.S. must pull back instead of tailing Israel in this reckless war

By picking Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei as the Supreme Leader, after the assassination of his father Ali Khamenei in a joint U.S.-Israeli strike on February 28, Iran has signalled defiance and continuity. Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump, who demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender", made it clear that the younger Khamenei was unacceptable to him. But Iran's Assembly of Experts, the 88-member clerical body, chose the 57-year-old ayatollah, who also lost other close family members in the February 28 strike, as the new "leader of the revolution". Having fought "on the frontlines" of the Iran-Iraq war and studied Islam in the seminaries of Qom, Mojtaba Khamenei has maintained close ties with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the clerical establishment. By elevating him, Tehran has sent an unmistakable message: the Islamic Republic stands firm despite the war. If Mr. Trump believed that his initial decapitation strike would lead to the Islamic state's collapse, he was mistaken. Instead, all branches of the state rallied behind the military and the clergy, while Iran regionalised the war by attacking U.S. bases and energy infrastructure in the Persian Gulf as well as Israel. Now, a new Khamenei is in power; the Iranian state is far from collapsing; energy prices are soaring and leaders in the U.S. and Israel are searching for exit strategies.

This was a wholly unnecessary war. Israel and the U.S. began attacking Iran hours after Oman, which mediated talks between Tehran and Washington, had said that a nuclear deal was within reach. After the war began, Mr. Trump kept shifting the goalposts. On day one, he said the overthrow of the Iranian state was his objective; by the fifth day, he said he wanted to be involved in selecting Iran's new leader, and by the eleventh day, he declared that America had already won and that the war would be over "soon", even as Iranian missiles continued to rain down on Israel and target U.S. bases in the region. To be sure, the U.S. and Israel possess immense air power and can continue to pound Iran. Independent investigations have found that American missiles struck a girls' school in Iran on February 28, claiming over 160 lives. Last week, Israeli strikes on Iran's oil storage facilities enveloped Tehran in thick smoke. But what is the point of continuing to bomb a people whom the Americans promised to "liberate" until a few days ago, without clearly achievable political goals? The Iranian state is not folding, it is fighting back. If Mr. Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu continue this war, the global economy will come under even greater stress. Whether they realise their grave miscalculation or not, the way forward is not more bombing. This war must be brought to an end immediately.

Catch them young

Increasing activity, eating healthy meals will help keep obesity away

The phrase 'catch them young' has acquired a perverse slant in a world grappling with a galloping non-communicable diseases epidemic. The full gamut of conditions that comprise metabolic diseases, usually impacting people with advancing age, are affecting even children, studies show. The recently released World Obesity Atlas 2026 delivers a true shocker. As per the report, released on World Obesity Day (March 4), in 2025, there were 14.9 million children in the 5-9 years group and more than 26.4 million children in the 10-19 age group in India who were overweight or obese. About 41 million children had a high BMI rate. Further, estimates suggest that by 2040, 20 million children in India will be obese and 56 million will be overweight. The report also estimates that at least 120 million children of school-going age are expected to have early signs of chronic illnesses such as hypertension and cardiovascular disease due to weight, in 2040. While, globally, China leads both categories, with 62 million children with high BMI and 33 million with obesity, India comes second, and is tailed by the United States (27 million high BMI; 13 million obesity). With such high obesity figures, the attendant health statistics too are unacceptably off the charts: In India, children aged 5-19 years with disease indicators attributed to high BMI, including hypertension, diabetes, hyperglycaemia, high cholesterol, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) are projected to rise substantially by 2040. The risk factors are similar to adult-onset metabolic conditions, broadly categorised as insufficient activity and consumption of unhealthy foods. Other aspects, mentioned as causes, include poor access to healthy school meals for primary and secondary grade children, and sub-optimal breast feeding for infants aged 1-5 months.

Clearly, not enough is being done to stem this tide of growing childhood obesity. The World Obesity Federation calls for greater action and emphasis on monitoring in terms of marketing restrictions and sugar levies on packaged food products. Experts have also called for restrictions on marketing packaged foods to children, sincere implementation of global physical activity recommendations for children, ensuring the mandatory breastfeeding period for infants, and healthier school food standards, besides integration of prevention and care into primary health systems. It is worrisome that obesity and overweight, once associated with higher-income countries, are now catching up rapidly in low- and middle-income countries. If nothing is done at this stage, the gains that the nation expects from its youth, even as it heads towards a grey path, will be hollowed out. The only way out is to catch them young, even before non-communicable diseases can.

Inside China, authority, conflict and strategic challenges

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The progression from Mao Tse Tung/Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping in China reveals the nature of the power shifts that have occurred since the country became a communist nation in 1949. All three iconic leaders, in their own way, demonstrated what was essential to maintain and sustain power in a country that had managed to stave-off takeovers by foreign powers over the years.

Since 1949, when Mao Tse Tung led the Communist Party of China (CPC) to victory and took control, the three eponymous leaders wielded unquestioned authority over the party and the country. Between 1949 and 2026, there have, no doubt, been many other leaders who steered the country's fortunes, but it is Mao, Deng and Mr. Xi who left an indelible stamp on China's fortunes and progress.

The 'inner devils'

Across China, signs of Mr. Xi's authority are markedly evident. However, even as China has emerged as the second most powerful country, it faces its own 'inner devils'. Periodic purges at the highest levels of state institutions have led to conflicting interpretations as to the real state of affairs. While China outwardly appears to be a monolith, several purges have been intended to eliminate opposition to the leader of the time. This was also the case during the periods of Mao and Deng.

In the latest purge, Mr. Xi removed the highly placed general of the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) , and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, General Zhang Youxia, and another another senior officer, Gen. Liu Zhenli, from the highest policymaking body of the CPC. The purge also claimed nine military law makers from China's Parliament including Ground Force Commander Li Qiaoming and Information Support Force Political Commissar Li Wei. It is worth examining whether this is merely another purge by Mr. Xi or an indication of the growing challenges to his leadership. A hint to this effect is the language used to describe Gen. Zhang in the People's Liberation Army Daily, *viz.* 'a toxin that had to be incised'. This could lead to an inference of inner party struggles at the top of the Chinese Communist pyramid. While by no means proven, it is still worth examining.

Even during Mao's lifetime, there was the infamous Liu Shaoqi episode, which though not acknowledged as a power struggle, is viewed by experts as having been an abortive challenge to Mao's supremacy. While Mr. Xi appears to have emerged successful, yet again, the fig leaf of another massive anti-corruption purge is beginning to wear thin. It merits a rethink of China today as a monolith, facing few internal challenges.

> Given China's global position, the prevailing situation within the country demands closer and deeper understanding of events

Most prophets seem to flounder when it comes to making political predictions. While Mr. Xi may appear stronger on the surface following the recent purges, it is worth considering the nature of the 'inner devils' said to be hindering China's progress. Analysing China's future clearly demands better comprehension of where China stands today.

Over the years, the mask that China is a monolith has been wearing thin. Insightful analysis would seem to suggest that belief in the goals set by the leadership has been declining, producing a degree of 'trust deficit'. Together with a less than optimistic assessment of the state of the Chinese economy, and the problems faced by some of its political institutions, it may be presumed that inner tensions are increasing, and are beginning to impact the highest levels of the party. Dealing with such a situation would undoubtedly require drastic measures to retain control and 'snuff out' all opposition to the leadership, even at the highest party levels. This, rather than accusations of corruption against senior party functionaries, would seem a more plausible explanation for the periodic purges taking place.

Dents to global credibility

Exacerbating international tensions and China's apparent ineffectiveness in addressing challenges beyond its 'near abroad' – namely East and Southeast Asia – seem to have damaged its image as a global power, potentially intensifying tensions within the CPC leadership. Venezuela was a test case of China's global outreach in this respect at the beginning of 2026. China failed the test and could not counter United States President Donald Trump's assertions that the Western Hemisphere belonged to the U.S. and no one else. This despite China having invested a great deal in Venezuela in recent years. More recently, in West Asia, China again failed to demonstrate its ability to checkmate the U.S. and prevent an attack on Iran, leading to the death of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

The outcome in West Asia has, incidentally, prompted unfavourable comparisons between Chinese weaponry and that of the U.S. and the West, further harming China's reputation. China's conspicuous incapability to counter the U.S. both in the Western Hemisphere and in West Asia is undoubtedly having repercussions and may have possibly impacted China's image beyond repair. In China's eyes, it has, meanwhile, shattered a carefully contrived impression that China is more than equal to the West. It would be reasonable to surmise that this too would have led to recriminations at the highest levels of the party, even, perhaps, provoking a challenge to the ruling dispensation.

It is, however uncertain, as of now, whether China is indeed undergoing a turmoil at the very highest levels of the CPC. What is discernible is that a normally belligerent China has, of late, been acting with far greater circumspection than usual in its dealings with the world at large, and with the U.S. in particular. This is even more surprising considering that China is riding a wave of turbocharged innovation in many areas such as electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals and logistics, and, of late, Artificial Intelligence. In all this, China appears well ahead of the curve.

A reticence

What is even more surprising is that – and with the exception of Taiwan – China, of late, has been disinclined to take a confrontational posture, *vis-à-vis* the U.S., even deferring to it on some issues. The journey of a Chinese cargo ship, in late 2025, from Asia to Europe, through the Arctic Ocean, that was completed in a fortnight as against the normal three weeks (through the Suez Canal), would normally have been heralded by China as evidence of the emergence of a 'Polar Silk Road'. But China has preferred to play down this achievement, stating that this contributes to 'supply chain stability'.

Strategic experts are confounded by this display of reticence, and feel that it is intended to avoid ruffling the feathers of western powers at a time when China's economy is facing certain problems and Mr. Trump has warned of the threat posed to U.S. interests in Greenland by Chinese ships in the vicinity. Apart from this, China's unwillingness to press its claims to being a 'near Arctic State' requires a valid explanation. Most strategic experts seem to feel that problems at the highest levels of the CPC can be the only plausible explanation.

What also needs valid explanation is the general mood of pessimism that appears to be sweeping across China. No plausible explanation has emerged so far. Cracks in the Communist party monolith could possibly be one explanation. Or it might well be an aggravating fear – about 'the wind in the tower heralding a great storm'. All this might appear rather far-fetched for now, but is worthy of more detailed analysis, given the past history of Chinese politics.

Given China's position in the world, the prevailing situation in China deserves a better and more detailed understanding of what is taking place. Events in China cast a shadow not only over Asia but also over much of the world. What is happening in China needs better explanation and understanding. A more benign and less antagonistic China would be of great value to a world facing many crosscurrents. For India, a return to an earlier era of 'Hindi *Chini Bhai Bhai* (Indians and Chinese are brothers') would be a gift worth savouring.

AI and the national security calculus

Bharath Reddy

is an Associate Fellow with the Takshashila Institution

Anthropic, an American Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab, is asking for three Chinese AI labs (DeepSeek, MoonshotAI, and MiniMax) to be treated as national security threats. The AI models of Anthropic and other American labs have also reportedly been used by the U.S. military in the Iran attacks to fast-track the "kill chain" from target identification to legal approval and strike.

The Pentagon has labelled Anthropic a "supply chain" risk – a designation associated with foreign adversaries, for raising concerns about how its technology is being used in military operations. This decision is now being challenged in court. These developments over the course of a few weeks have serious implications for AI development and national security calculus worldwide.

The issue

The Chinese AI labs have been accused of distilling frontier models from American AI companies. In a nutshell, this involves taking a stronger AI model's outputs to teach a weaker model. The attacks were sophisticated and used deceptive techniques to mask the identity and intent of the distillers. Anthropic claims that this happened on an industrial scale – "16 million exchanges with Claude through approximately 24,000 fraudulent accounts, in violation of our terms of service and regional access restrictions".

Generative AI is often equated with nuclear technologies, with the aim of containing the proliferation of the technology. However, it is a dual-use general-purpose technology that is more comparable to semiconductors than nuclear weapons. Unlike nuclear technologies, where governments drive research and development efforts, cutting-edge AI research happens in the private sector for civilian applications. It just so happens that the same technology also has military applications.

Nuclear non-proliferation works because fissile material is rare, controlled and traceable. The same is not true for mathematical AI models. The fact that DeepSeek was able to achieve comparable performance of frontier models at a fraction of the cost after export controls were imposed is proof that restrictions are not effective. The nuclear narrative asks us to treat querying an AI model as equivalent to weapons proliferation.

> The controversy over AI integration in military systems highlights the need for plurilateral commitments by states to responsible use

Distilled models and guardrails

Anthropic's argument that a distilled model will be used less responsibly lies on weak foundations. Models from frontier American AI labs such as Anthropic, OpenAI, Google and xAI could be used by the U.S. military for applications such as surveillance, cyberwarfare and lethal autonomous weapons systems. In fact, when Anthropic recently raised concerns about the kinds of uses its models were put to, it faced the threat of being removed from defence systems and designated as "supply chain risks". Its rival, OpenAI, however, has accepted a permissive contract for military uses, highlighting a race to the bottom, given the competitive pressure to serve government clients. When their own models are being put to such uses, the argument that distilled models will not have guardrails collapses.

It is extremely hard to control the diffusion of such a technology for many reasons. Talent mobility is hard to restrict. Many of the researchers at Chinese labs were trained in U.S. universities or worked in U.S. companies. The restrictions on inputs such as semiconductors have been repeatedly circumvented and are now partially repealed. Now, distillation is one more vector that is even harder to restrict, as the Anthropic report acknowledges. Each time a restriction appears, workarounds find a way to bypass it. If distillation is seen as extremely risky, not allowing public access to it should be an option to consider.

In the language of national security, these restrictions do not make the world safer. They make it harder for rivals to compete with dominant U.S. companies even on civilian applications. Input-based restrictions are ineffective and only cause collateral damage to innovation, scientific collaboration and widespread economic development. They effectively consolidate power in the hands of a few U.S. companies.

Equating distillation to industrial-scale intellectual property theft also seems unfair, given that frontier AI models are trained on the creative and intellectual output of millions of people who were not compensated and did not consent. The process of asking a model millions of questions and learning from its answers is arguably no more extractive than training that model on billions of web pages written by people who never consented to it.

The companies whose models were distilled are right to claim that their terms of service have been violated by those distilling their models and can pursue measures to block such actors. However, they are also arguing for a coordinated response across the AI industry, cloud providers, and policymakers. This move further entrenches the market power of a handful of companies.

What is needed

As scary as it is, it seems inevitable that armed forces worldwide will integrate generative AI into military systems. The Anthropic episode demonstrates that corporate guardrails are not a substitute for governance: a company can be overridden, replaced, or pressured into compliance. What is needed instead are plurilateral commitments by states to responsible use, covering meaningful human control over lethal decisions, prohibitions on mass civilian surveillance, and auditable technical standards for such capabilities. These commitments must apply universally for them to be effective.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LPG supply crisis

I wish to draw urgent attention to a serious problem that households are facing in booking LPG (Indane) refills. There is a complete breakdown of the booking and delivery system. For several days now, consumers have been unable to book LPG refills through any available mode. The official booking numbers frequently remain switched off, and even when calls do connect, no confirmation SMS or DAC (Delivery Authentication Code) is generated.

Without this crucial DAC message, delivery personnel are refusing to provide the cylinder. The booking portal in many cases incorrectly shows that a cylinder has already been booked, thereby preventing consumers from placing a new refill order — even when no such booking was made and no cylinder was delivered.

Yesterday, when the LPG delivery vehicle arrived in our locality, several residents gathered hoping to receive their refill cylinders. However, the delivery staff stated that they had strict instructions to supply cylinders only upon presentation of the DAC message. Interestingly, the delivery vehicles remained in the area for hours.

Equally concerning is that attempts to contact the LPG distribution agency yielded no response.

Aditya Das,
Bhowali, Uttarakhand

It is unfortunate that the Centre could not anticipate the cooking gas shortage arising out of the Iran-Israel-U.S. war. The way out is to look east and seek Brunei crude/gas to tide over the crisis.

Unless proactive actions are initiated on a war-footing, the situation will go out of control. There is already the threat of unemployment looming over gig workers and the hospitality sector.

A.V. Narayanan,
Chennai

K.N. Pannikar

In the passing of Professor K.N. Pannikar, the nation has lost a great intellectual and historian. His approachability with students and colleagues also made him a truly distinguished personality.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Reevaluating the office of the Speaker

Ahmed Raza

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, MANUU

The recent no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against Om Birla has reignited the debate over the constitutional position and accountability of the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. While such motions are rare, their significance lies not merely in the possibility of removal but in what they reveal about the functioning of parliamentary institutions and the evolving conventions surrounding the Speaker's office.

The office of the Speaker is one of the most critical pillars of India's parliamentary democracy. As the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker ensures orderly debate, enforces the rules of procedure, safeguards the rights of members, and maintains the balance between government authority and the voice of the Opposition. The Constitution establishes the Speaker as an impartial arbiter expected to rise above party politics once elected. Convention demands that the office be exercised with neutrality and fairness. The Speaker's authority extends to several crucial functions such as the recognition of members, interpretation of procedural rules, disciplinary powers, and the certification of Money Bills. These powers significantly shape legislative outcomes and parliamentary debates, and because of this influence, the constitutional framework provides strong protections to ensure that the Speaker cannot be removed easily for political reasons.

The process for removal

The procedure for the removal of the Speaker is deliberately stringent. According to Article 94(c) under the Constitution, the Speaker can be removed only through a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Lok Sabha, not merely those present and voting. This high threshold reflects the intent to safeguard the stability and dignity of the office. The process begins when a member submits a written notice to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha seeking removal. At least 14 days' notice must be given before the motion can be taken up. Once admitted, the motion requires the support of at least 50 members to proceed for discussion in the House. The procedural framework governing this process is laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, specifically Rules 200 to 203. The rules mandate that the resolution must clearly state the charges against the Speaker. During the debate on such a motion, the Speaker may participate in the proceedings as a member of the House, and while the Speaker can vote on the resolution in the first instance, he/she cannot exercise their vote in case of a tie.

No-confidence motions against the Speaker have been extremely rare in India's parliamentary history. Only three such attempts have occurred – in 1954, against G. V. Mavalankar; in 1966, against Hukam Singh; and in 1987, against Balram Jakhar. In all three cases, the motions failed. These precedents demonstrate the political and procedural difficulty involved in removing a Speaker.

Larger impact

Although the present motion may not result in the Speaker's removal, it carries broader institutional significance. It reminds presiding officers that their authority derives from the collective confidence of the legislature. The Speaker's credibility depends heavily on the perception of impartiality. Allegations of partisan conduct can weaken public confidence in parliamentary processes.

While the high constitutional threshold ensures that the Speaker is not vulnerable to routine political pressure, it still allows a democratic mechanism for accountability.

However, several challenges affect the functioning of the Speaker's office. First, there is a growing perception of politicisation. In recent years, decisions on matters such as disqualification of legislators under the anti-defection law or certification of Money Bills have often been viewed through a partisan lens. Second, frequent confrontations between the ruling party and the Opposition have led to procedural deadlocks in Parliament. When the neutrality of the presiding officer is questioned, trust between political actors erodes, making consensus-building more difficult. Third, parliamentary conventions – unwritten norms that once guided the impartial conduct of the Speaker – have gradually weakened. As political competition intensifies, these conventions risk being overshadowed by tactical considerations.

The way ahead

To preserve the credibility of Parliament and strengthen democratic governance, reforms and renewed commitment to parliamentary norms are necessary. Reinforcing institutional conventions should be the first step. Political parties must collectively reaffirm the tradition that the Speaker acts above party lines once elected. Enhancing transparency in procedural rulings can also improve trust. Clear explanations for major decisions – such as rejecting requests for discussion or certifying legislative bills – would reduce allegations of bias. Encouraging dialogue between the government and the Opposition is equally important. Structured consultations on parliamentary procedures and reforms could reduce confrontations and improve legislative productivity. Finally, codifying best practices regarding the Speaker's discretionary powers may help clarify ambiguities. While flexibility is essential in parliamentary procedure, clearer guidelines could reduce disputes over interpretation.

No-confidence motions against the Speaker have been extremely rare in India's parliamentary history

The crisis of unemployment in J&K

The lack of a diversified industry has limited job creation in the region

STATE OF PLAY

Bilal Gani

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is grappling with an unemployment crisis. In recent years, the unemployment rate in the region has soared to alarming levels. Such an increase has forced thousands of highly-qualified youth into low-paying jobs.

In the Kashmir valley, hundreds of jobless youth have been struggling to find stable employment despite completing their education and acquiring various skills.

Myriad reasons

The unemployment rate of J&K is higher than the national average. In December 2025, Parliament said that J&K's unemployment rate was 6.1% in July-September 2025, higher than the national average of 5.2%. Urban areas have shown sharper gaps with an unemployment rate of 10.6%, compared with the rural unemployment rate of 5.1%. As per estimates, the region has approximately 3.6 lakh registered unemployed youth, with roughly two lakh in Kashmir and 1.5 lakh in Jammu. The unprecedented rise in the region's unemployment rate has been precipitated by its heavy reliance on the government sector in the absence of a robust private sector. Tourism and horticulture, traditional areas of the private sector, have been shrinking and are unable to absorb the growing educated workforce. The lack of a diversified industry has caused unemployment by limiting job creation in sectors beyond tourism and horticulture, leading to structural unemployment.

The delays in recruitment have further exacerbated this

crisis. Almost 80% of all recruitment exams announced by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC), two premier recruiting agencies, have been delayed or challenged in court. Thousands of posts now lie vacant across different departments like health, public works and education. The absence of a fair and transparent recruitment mechanism has worsened the situation. On December 15, the J&K government terminated 103 employees of the Fire and Emergency Services Department after large-scale irregularities were revealed in the recruitment process.

The region's economic unpredictability has turned entrepreneurship into survival ventures rather than growth engines.

Moreover, the absence of a well-defined public employment policy has replaced regular recruitment with contractual hiring. J&K has more than one lakh daily wagers across different departments who continue to work without job security or benefits. Their regularisation has been overlooked for decades by successive governments. The job crisis in the region is particularly alarming among highly educated individuals who account for 23.9% of the total unemployment rate.

This situation reflects a serious mismatch between educational attainment and job opportunities.

A swift response

J&K's job crisis demands urgent and effective government intervention. A strong start-up culture and a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem can effectively address unemployment in the region. Over the years, some local entrepreneurs have established successful start-ups and provided employment to hundreds of youths. Therefore, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), the premier public institute supporting entrepreneurship development in the Union Territory (UT), should be fully funded to be an effective platform for encouraging entrepreneurs to build new start-ups.

However, the public sector remains the main employment generator in the region. There should be massive recruitment drives to fill vacant positions and curb the unemployment graph, which continues to rise year after year. The government should appoint a monitoring agency which can oversee the selection process of recruiting agencies in the UT, so as to ensure transparent and timebound recruitment to various government positions. J&K's youth should be provided with equal employment opportunities in public and private sectors through fast-track recruitment, financial and logistics support, and market-oriented education with special focus on skill-based courses. Private investors should be encouraged to invest in the region's talented human capital which will be a critical driver of productivity, innovation and economic growth.

Bilal Gani is with the faculty of Political Studies, Government Degree College Beerwah, J&K

More women deleted from rolls in most States after SIR

Tamil Nadu is the only major State where the gender ratio improved slightly, despite the State recording one of the largest reductions in total electors

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani
Srinivasan Ramani

The Election Commission of India's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls – a large-scale exercise aimed at updating voter lists – is being carried out across 12 States and Union Territories (UTs) covering close to 51 crore voters. The enumeration phase of the exercise began in November 2025. Among these States and UTs, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Puducherry are scheduled to go to the polls in April 2026.

The first round of the clean-up exercise was carried out earlier in Bihar, where more than 65 lakh names were deleted from the electoral rolls and the gender ratio fell sharply from 907 women per 1,000 men to 892 women after the SIR.

The Hindu had found that the exclusions were higher in the 18-29 age category, with one of the primary reasons being that the women had 'permanently shifted'. The EC had then said in the Supreme Court that women's names would have been excluded as they had migrated to other States after marriage. Yet, *The Hindu*'s data stories had shown that more men migrated for work than women who migrated for marriage, according to the Census and later surveys. This raises the question of whether similar patterns are visible in other States where the SIR exercise has been carried out.

Decline across States

Data from the 2024 Lok Sabha election rolls and the final SIR rolls show that while the drop in gender ratio is not as steep as in Bihar, all major States have recorded a decline in the proportion of women voters relative to men after the revision. Tamil Nadu is the notable exception, where the gender ratio improved, even though the State witnessed one of the largest reductions in total electors following the exercise.

Uttar Pradesh has not been included in this analysis as the final electoral roll for the State is yet to be published. The EC has extended the revision schedule multiple times and the final roll is now expected to be released on April 10.

In West Bengal, the gender ratio fell from about 966 women per 1,000 men in the 2024 Lok Sabha rolls to around 956 after the SIR revision. The State also recorded one of the largest reductions in its electorate – a 8.06% decline.

Nearly 60 lakh people are still being adjudicated for "logical discrepancies" but are part of the rolls so far.

The gender ratio in Gujarat recorded a sharper shift as it fell from roughly 945 women to about 938 in the final SIR rolls. The total electorate declined from 5.08 crore to 4.4 crore, a reduction of 13.4% of the electorate.

Madhya Pradesh also saw a decline in the gender ratio after the revision, from 945 women to 934 in the final SIR rolls.

The State's electorate shrank from about 5.74 crore voters before the SIR to 5.39 crore in the final rolls, a reduction of around 34.25 lakh electors (5.97%).

The number of women electors in Rajasthan fell from about 2.56 crore to 2.45 crore, while the number of male electors declined more modestly. The gender ratio dropped from 920 to 911. Overall, the State's electorate witnessed a 6.13% reduction.

In contrast, Tamil Nadu, one of the States where women form a majority on the electoral rolls, recorded an improvement in the gender ratio.

The ratio increased from 1,034 women per 1,000 men in the 2024 rolls to 1,044 in the final SIR rolls. But the total electorate in the State declined from 6.41 crore to 5.67 crore, a reduction of about 74 lakh electors, or 11.5% from the pre SIR rolls.

However, Kerala, another State with a higher number of women voters than men, saw a decline in the gender ratio after the revision. The ratio fell from 1,064 to 1,053 in the final SIR rolls, though women continue to remain more numerous than men on the electoral rolls. The total electorate also declined by about 3.2%.

Similarly, women continue to slightly outnumber men in Chhattisgarh although the ratio fell from 1,016 to 1,002 in the final SIR rolls. The total electorate declined by about 11.77%.

Goa is also among the States where women continue to outnumber men. But the State's electorate saw a significant contraction. The total number of voters saw a decline of around 10.7% of voters.

Status of Union Territories

Among Union Territories, Puducherry has historically seen higher women participation and representation on the rolls and has continued to show a strong female presence even after the revision. However, the total number of voters declined from about 10.2 lakh to 9.4 lakh, representing a 7.5% reduction.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the gender ratio rose from 919 to 979 after the revision. The number of female electors fell by a smaller margin compared with male electors, leading to an increase in the ratio even as the overall electorate dropped significantly. The rolls declined from 3.1 lakh to about 2.58 lakh voters, representing a reduction of 16.8%, the largest proportional declines among the regions analysed.

Lakshadweep, on the other hand, saw only a marginal increase in the gender ratio from 968 women voters to 971 in the final SIR rolls. The Union territory recorded almost no change in its electorate with just a 0.3% drop.

With inputs from Mohammed Iqbal, Sreeparna Chakrabarty, Mehul Malpani and Shubhomoy Sikdar.

Gender gap among electors

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India

Roll revision: A copy of the final electoral roll that was released after the SIR in Salem in Tamil Nadu on February 23. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Table 1: Gender ratio (women per 1,000 men) in the Lok Sabha 2024 electoral rolls and final SIR rolls across States and Union Territories where SIR was held recently

State/UT	Gender ratio (LS election 2024)	Gender ratio (final SIR)
Andaman & Nicobar	919	979
Chhattisgarh	1,016	1,002
Goa	1,063	1,068
Gujarat	945	938
Lakshadweep	968	971
Madhya Pradesh	945	934
Puducherry	1,129	1,128
Tamil Nadu	1,034	1,044
West Bengal*	966	956
Rajasthan	920	911
Kerala	1,064	1,053

1 In Bihar, the gender ratio fell from 907 women per 1,000 men to 892 women after the SIR

2 All major States, except Tamil Nadu, have recorded a decline in the gender ratio

Darker blue indicates higher gender ratios and darker red indicates lower gender ratios. Lighter shades represent values closer to the middle range

Table 2: The percentage decline in electors across States and UTs, from the pre-SIR and Lok Sabha 2024 rolls to the final SIR rolls

State/UT	% change in electors (pre-SIR rolls to final SIR)	% change in electors (LS 2024 to final SIR)
Andaman & Nicobar	16.87	18.28
Chhattisgarh	11.77	9.42
Goa	10.76	10.35
Gujarat	13.40	8.29
Lakshadweep	0.36	0.60
Madhya Pradesh	5.97	4.74
Puducherry	7.57	7.79
Tamil Nadu	11.55	9.13
West Bengal*	8.06	7.44
Rajasthan	6.13	3.72
Kerala	3.22	3.07

■ Andaman recorded the largest proportional decline among the regions analysed

**In West Bengal, nearly 60 lakh people are still being adjudicated for "logical discrepancies" but are part of the rolls so far*

Darker red represents larger percentage declines among electors and lighter shades indicate smaller reductions

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1976

STD on 8 routes inaugurated

New Delhi, March 10: The Posts and Telegraphs Department today introduced eight subscriber trunk dialling routes and 13 "no delay service routes", besides adding 12,500 lines to various telephone exchanges in the country to mark the centenary of the invention of telephone by Alexander Graham Bell.

The Union Minister of State for Industry and Civil Supplies, Mr. A.C. George, inaugurated STD between Delhi and Trivandrum by speaking to the Kerala Home Minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran. Mr. K.C. Pant, Union Minister for Energy, speaking to the Gujarat Governor, Mr. K.K. Viswanathan inaugurated STD between Delhi and Gandhinagar.

Besides, Mr. K. Raghuremiah, Union Minister for Works, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs, inaugurated extension of the Janpath IV exchange of Delhi telephones by 800 lines.

Presiding over the function, the Union Minister for Communications, Mr. Shankar Deyal Sharma, said that a telex exchange at Jodhpur and a trunk automatic exchange at Ambala were also being commissioned to-day.

Mr. Sharma said that the establishment of STD between Delhi and Trivandrum and Delhi and Gandhinagar was part of the scheme to connect Delhi with all the State Capitals.

By the end of 1976, all the State Capitals, except the four in the eastern sector, would be connected to Delhi.

He also said that by the end of the current month, the P and T department proposed to provide 1.2 lakh new telephone connections. In the remaining years of the plan, it was proposed to provide over six lakh new telephone connections.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1926

Shakespeare theatre to be rebuilt

Rugby, March 9: It has been definitely decided to rebuild the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre on Stratford on-Avon, which was destroyed by fire on Saturday. A fund raise £100,000 will probably be launched shortly. The destruction of the Theatre will not interfere with the holding of birthday and summer festivals at Shakespeare's birthplace.

From Page One

Gas from new sources to end shortage: officials

"We were getting Qatar gas at $6-8 per MMBtu (metric million British thermal unit), and now the price is $15 per MMBtu," he said. "But, the economics of it is that, once the price crosses even $10 per MMBtu, then gas from Norway and the U.S. becomes viable despite the long distance," he said. "There will, of course, be a lead time between placing orders and receiving deliveries from those countries," the official said. "Gas will not be a long-term problem, but there will be some short-term pain."

Another official, who also did not wish to be identified, said the government's utmost priority was to ensure an uninterrupted LPG supply to domestic households without "jeopardising commercial entities". To allay concerns among restaurateurs about potential shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, the government on Monday constituted a committee comprising three executive directors of oil marketing companies (OMCs) to "review the representations for LPG supply and try to provide some volumes to them."

The official said, "We [the committee] are already in touch with the restaurateurs. All genuine requirements will be addressed and relief provided to the extent possible."

LS takes up resolution on removal of Speaker

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to intervene in the debate on Wednesday before the House votes on the motion. The proceedings began with Congress MP Mohammad Jawed reading out the notice seeking to move the resolution for Mr. Birla's removal. The motion was also moved by fellow Congress MPs K. Suresh and Mallu Ravi.

A brief procedural row erupted over who would preside over the proceedings during the debate. AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi raised a point of order, asking why BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was chairing the session, and arguing that Mr. Pal had been appointed to the panel of chairpersons by the Speaker himself.

The objection was countered by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and Mr. Rijiju, who said the claim was "irrelevant" and that Mr. Pal was competent to preside over the House during the debate.

Congress MP K. C. Venugopal said that the government had created a "constitutional vacuum" by leaving the post of Deputy Speaker vacant for years now.

After the presiding officer asked members supporting the notice to stand up, more than the required 50 MPs rose in their seats, allowing the motion to be admitted for discussion.

The Congress Deputy Leader, in his remarks, alleged that the Opposition had repeatedly been denied the opportunity to raise critical issues in the House and cited the treatment of Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. "In the month of February, when the Leader of the Opposition tried to speak during the Motion of Thanks, he was interrupted 20 times. The interruptions came from the Chair, members of the panel, and senior leaders of the Treasury benches," Mr. Gogoi said.

"There was an expectation that the Chair would be neutral. But research of the uncorrected transcripts will show the number of times the Leader of the Opposition was interrupted. While he was on his feet, another member was called upon to speak," Mr. Gogoi said.

"Is this the parliamentary tradition we want to show? Microphones are being used to silence MPs. This stands in direct contradiction with the rituals of this House," he added.

Mr. Gogoi also cited instances where Opposition members' remarks were expunged, while allegations made by treasury bench members were allowed to remain on record.

Intervening during the debate, Mr. Rijiju rejected the Opposition's charges and strongly defended Mr. Birla, saying that the Speaker had always acted impartially and had, in fact, provided many opportunities to Opposition members to raise issues.

Chhattisgarh govt. approves draft Bill on anti-conversion

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's BJP government on Tuesday approved the draft of a new anti-religious conversion law.

Titled 'Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026', the proposed legislation "seeks to effectively curb religious conversions carried out through force, inducement, fraudulent means, undue influence, or misrepresentation", stated a government press note. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting.

The Bill can now be introduced in the State Assembly which is currently in session.

Allegations of religious conversions through force or inducements have surfaced repeatedly in the State. While right wing groups clashing with Christian preachers are common across the State, the arrest of two Keralite nuns last year on charges of human trafficking and kidnapping of three tribal women for forced religious conversion drew national attention. It had led to massive protests in Kerala and Delhi against the arrests.

SC to look into plea against law on Muslim inheritance

Top court says striking down provisions in Shariat Act could create vacuum in Muslim inheritance framework; says it would be better to defer to Parliament's wisdom to bring a Uniform Civil Code

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally observed that it would be better to defer to Parliament's wisdom to bring a Uniform Civil Code rather than judicially strike down provisions in the Shariat Application Act, 1937, on the ground of discrimination for giving Muslim women a smaller share of family inheritance compared with their male counterparts.

> Look, you are talking about inheritance. But the basic equality of a one man-one woman relationship... has it been realised throughout the country? No. Can we declare all bigamous relationships bound by personal law as *ultra vires* Article 14? We have to defer to the wisdom of the legislature to bring the Directive Principles into reality
>
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> SC Judge

The law established Islamic law for inheritance among Muslims, providing widows with children a one-eighth share, or a further reduced one-fourth share if they do not have children, and daughters half of a son's share.

Appearing before a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and, Justices R. Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner Poulomi Pavini Shukla, challenged what he called "artificial discrimination" between Muslim women and men regarding their right to inheritance.

The Bench, however, posed a practical question of law, asking which law would govern Muslim inheritance if the Shariat Act were struck down.

Mr. Bhushan responded that the more secular Indian Succession Act could apply. He referred to the landmark judgment in *Mary Roy vs State of Kerala*, in which the petitioner successfully fought for equal inheritance rights for Syrian Christian women in the State, nullifying the discriminatory Travancore Christian Succession Act, 1916. "Does the Indian Succession Act apply to Muslim women? Remember, when you strike an Act, you create a vacuum... In our over-anxiety for reforms, we may deprive them [Muslim women] of whatever they are getting now," the Chief Justice said.

Justice Bagchi asked whether it would be wiser to defer to Parliament's wisdom to realise the aspiration expressed in Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of the Constitution, which says that the state shall endeavour to secure for citizens a Uniform Civil Code across the country.

"Look, you are talking about inheritance. But the basic equality of a one man-one woman relationship, a monogamous existence, has it been realised throughout the country? No. Can we declare all bigamous relationships bound by personal law as *ultra vires* Article 14 of the Constitution? We have to defer to the wisdom of the legislature to bring the DPSP into reality," Justice Bagchi observed.

Mr. Bhushan urged the three-judge Bench to refer the case to a Constitution Bench. He said the court had earlier not hesitated to strike down triple *talaq*, which involved a more religious issue. "Inheritance is a civil right," he submitted.

The Chief Justice asked whether he was suggesting that the court strike down the Shariat Act and effectively re-legislate. Mr. Bhushan said the top court could either bring Muslim women under the Indian Succession Act or declare that the Shariat Act provisions on inheritance violated Article 14. The court agreed to list the case.

Two killed in violence over poll rule in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
SHILLONG

Two people were killed in violence linked to a controversial notification barring non-tribal people from contesting the April 10 elections to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) in Meghalaya on Monday night.

The violence broke out after dusk and continued till late at night, in the West Garo Hills district. Officials confirmed the deaths but did not specify the circumstances leading to them.

Locals said the victims, two unidentified persons, were killed in police firing following clashes between tribal and non-tribal groups. The non-tribal population in the area largely comprises Bengali-speaking Muslims.

Tensions had been building in the non-tribal belt of the district after a GHADC notification, dated February 17, made it mandatory for all candidates contesting the council elections to possess a Scheduled Tribe certificate.

The GHADC is one of three tribal councils in Meghalaya created under the Sixth Schedule.

Gyanesh Kumar with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi at a press conference in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

CEC promises a fair, violence-free polls in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Tuesday assured the electorate of West Bengal that free and peaceful elections would be held in the State, but added that the number of phases in which the Assembly elections are held would depend on the preparedness for law and order by the State administration.

Mr. Kumar is on a three-day visit to West Bengal, accompanied by the full Bench of the Election Commission of India (EC).

"Central forces will be deployed in a professional manner as a confidence building measure, augmenting the presence of State Police so that electors are assured there will no violence near the polling booths," Mr. Kumar said.

"We expect that, after this announcement, political violence will not be tolerated, no elector will be placed under any kind of pressure, and anti-social elements will refrain from any acts of violence. If they try to indulge in such acts, then strong action will be taken," the CEC told media persons in Kolkata.

He said the number of polling booths in the State stands at 80,719, and no polling booth would have more than 1,200 voters.

Form special tribunals to hear appeals of people left out of Bengal SIR, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the constitution of special tribunals to decide on appeals against exclusions from the electoral roll during the West Bengal special intensive revision (SIR) process.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant ordered the formation of the tribunals after reasoning that the decisions of judicial officers deployed in the SIR exercise as Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) should not be subjected to appeal before any executive or administrative authority.

The Supreme Court asked the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court to request former Chief Justices and judges of High Courts to preside over the Benches of the appellate tribunals once they are notified by the Election Commission(EC). The EC shall pay the retired judges an honorarium and cover the entire expenses of the tribunals.

Civic drill: People waiting in queue in Nadia on March 5 to apply for the inclusion of their names on the electoral rolls. PTI

The top court briefly recorded the contents of a communication received from the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court that over 500 judicial officers from West Bengal and over 200 judicial officers from the neighbouring States of Odisha and Jharkhand were working "day and night, even on Sundays and holidays" to hear objections and claims from voters excluded from the electoral roll.

The Calcutta Chief Justice, the top court recorded, said that 10.16 lakh objections have been disposed of as of March 9, 2026.

The Bench further directed the EC to append the supplementary lists containing the names of voters cleared by the judicial officers to the final list published on February 28. These supplementary lists would be deemed to have been in existence from the date of release of the final voter list.

The court noted that the publication of supplementary list should be imminent considering the fact that the judicial officers, acting as EROs, have already disposed of over 10 lakh objections.

The court added that the reasons for exclusion should be immediately communicated to the electors concerned in order to facilitate the appellate process without delay.

Mamata ends dharna over SIR, says fight not over yet

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Four days after she sat on a demonstration in Kolkata protesting the deletions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ended her dharna on Tuesday with a promise to continue the fight till every voter was assured of their right to vote.

Ms. Banerjee cited the developments in the Supreme Court earlier on Tuesday, when the court suggested setting up a special tribunal to hear appeals from the objections phase as a positive outcome of her protest.

"Even if they [the Election Commission of India or EC] declare the elections on March 15-16, the game will not end there. The game will continue in the Supreme Court," Ms. Banerjee said, from the stage set up for the dharna, before ending her sit-in demonstration on its fifth day.

Ms. Banerjee said the EC was working as an agent of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Rajnath Singh unveils 'vision document' for armed forces

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday released the "Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military" at an event in South Block, here, outlining a long-term strategy to transform India's armed forces into a modern, integrated and technologically advanced military by the centenary of Independence.

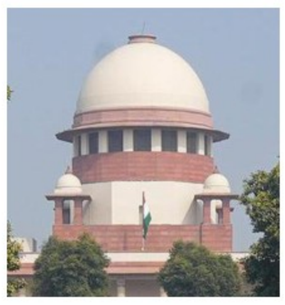
A central pillar of the vision document is greater jointness among the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

'Frame no-fault compensation policy for adverse events post COVID vaccination'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Union government, acting through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to frame a no-fault compensation policy for serious adverse events following COVID-19 vaccinations.

"India does not appear to have in place any uniform or structured policy mechanism to provide redress to individuals who suffer adverse effects following vaccination. This gap cannot be lightly overlooked, particularly when



vaccination programmes are undertaken as public health measures under the aegis and authority of the State itself," a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed in a judgment.

"The concern becomes all the more pressing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, when immunisation was carried out on an unprecedented scale as a collective societal necessity," the verdict stated. The judgment was based on petitions seeking compensation for 'After Effects From Immunisation' (AEFI) deaths allegedly caused by COVID-19 vaccination.

The judgment, authored by Justice Nath, noted that no-fault vaccine injury compensation schemes were a recognised feature of a welfare-state response. The rationale behind no-fault liability was simple, that is, "certain categories of harm require swift relief without prolonged inquiry into fault".

"The relationship between the individual and the State cannot be viewed through the prism of fault-based liability," Justice Nath reasoned.

The court made it clear that it had no intention to embark on a scientific inquiry into the AEFI deaths.

A government affidavit had said a total of 219.86 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered in the country till November 19, 2022. A collective 92,114 AEFI cases (0.0042%) were reported. It had said the total deaths reported were 1,171.

Jal Jeevan mission gets extension up to 2028

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Jal Jeevan programme to 2028 and provisioned more money to meet its goal of providing a minimum amount of daily potable water to every rural household in the country.

A press note from the Ministry notes that the programme's focus will change "...from infrastructure creation to service delivery."

Assam polls: three MLAs in first AIUDF candidates list

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Three MLAs and a former Congress legislator are among the first list of nine candidates announced by the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). The list released by AIUDF president Maulana Badruddin Ajmal has two women and a former chief of All Assam Minority Students' Union, who was in the Congress for three days.

APPEAL

Jayabalan is 5 years old suffering from "Baloon Pulmonary Valvotomy" and has to undergo Heart Surgery at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 2,00,000/-**. His father is a coolie with poor income. They are not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Gas shortage blows out restaurant stoves; diners find favourites off menu

The Hindu Bureau

Hoteliers across various States in the country have flagged the shortage of commercial cooking gas, and urged the Union government to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel.

The National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR), Bengaluru Hotels Association, Chennai Hotels Association, Chennai Tea Shops Association, the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO), and several hoteliers in the States have warned that the shortage of cooking gas would force many units to shut shop.

"The restaurant industry is predominantly dependent on commercial LPG for its operations. Any disruption therein will lead to a catastrophic closure of majority of restaurants," the NRAI said in a statement.

In Bengaluru, the disruptions in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders has affected several eateries, triggering concerns among both businesses and households. On Tuesday, a number of small restaurants limited their services to "only tea and coffee" after being informed by gas dealers that refilling of commercial cylinders had not taken place since March 7.

Around 20% of hotels and restaurants in Mumbai have shut down, with associations projecting that nearly 50% of hotels and restaurants in Mumbai will shut down in two days if the situation does not improve.

Local impact: People waiting in a long queue to refill their LPG cylinders outside a centre in Lucknow on Tuesday and a number of small restaurants limited their services to 'only tea and coffee' in Bengaluru. SANDEEP SAXENA/ K. MURALI KUMAR

'At least 25% supply'

"We understand the reason but instead of blanket stoppage, the supply should continue for at least 25%, so the hotels can survive somehow," a representative of the AHAR, the apex body for hospitality trade in Maharashtra, said.

While some large restaurants in Delhi-NCR said they have not yet been impacted by the shortage because they have a stock of four to six extra cylinders, smaller outlet owners said they are forced to buy in the black market.

A kebab and biryani shop owner in New Delhi said: "The cylinders available in the black market that cost ₹1,200 yesterday are now being sold at ₹1,400 to ₹1,500 today."

The cooking fuel shortage has affected paying guest accommodations and hostels in Hyderabad. Managers and supervisors of large paying guest facilities, particularly in the IT hubs, fear disruption to preparation of food.

In Tamil Nadu, the Sree Annapoorna Sree Gowrishankar Group, a Coimbatore-based prominent eatery chain, put out a notice informing customers that it will limit its menu to essential items.

K.A. Ramaswamy, president of the Coimbatore District Hoteliers' Association, said the oil marketing companies had stopped the supply of commercial LPG cylinders from Tuesday. Restaurant owners in Salem and Namakkal said they could manage for the next two days with the cylinders in stock.

Durai Palanisamy, chairman of the Southern India Mills Association, said that all textile processing factories used LPG commercial cylinders for singeing process and there is no alternative for it. This will come to a standstill, he said.

In Madhya Pradesh, R.K. Gupta, vice-president of the LPG Association, said commercial LPG cylinders had not been supplied at any bottling plant in Bhopal since Monday.

The hospitality sector in parts of Punjab has been impacted as well. Satish Kumar Arora, president of the Punjab Hotel, Restaurant, and Resort Association, said, "Currently, wedding season is under way and we were expecting a brisk business, but now it seems to be in the doldrums." Consumers in neighbouring Haryana are grappling with the shortage too.

Waiting time

In Chhattisgarh, remote areas have a low number of gas agencies and consumers fear that the waiting time will go up due to supply side pressure.

Many hotels in Odisha's coastal town of Puri, which attracts thousands of tourists from India and abroad, said they would run out of commercial LPG cylinders in the next couple of days.

Hundreds of hotel and restaurant owners in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are in panic as several districts witnessed long queues of people outside LPG distribution centres to refill their gas cylinders.

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar clarified that there is no shortage of LPG in the State and people should not panic.

Visakhapatnam houses Hindustan Petroleum's major LPG cavern storage facility with a capacity of about 60,000 metric tonnes.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shahul Hameed, general secretary of the All Kerala Caterers' Association, who runs Foodwey Catering in Kozhikode, said a good number of caterers in Kerala will soon have to shut down due to the severe shortage of commercial cooking gas.

People across West Bengal were affected by the crisis as well. Restaurants in Kolkata have reported a shortage of commercial gas supply. Hotel and Restaurant Association of Eastern India president Sudesh Poddar said some restaurants may have stock between two to seven days, but most do not have enough to keep their kitchens running.

With the wedding season in full swing and tourist arrivals going up in Rajasthan, hoteliers were worried about not having cooking gas in sufficient quantity. The Gujarat government has curtailed gas supply to industries by up to 50% to safeguard domestic LPG availability, State Energy Minister Rushikesh Patel said.

Close to 90% of India's LPG import and 30% of natural gas requirements are routed through Strait of Hormuz, which is now shut by Iran. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up a committee to review supply shortages of commercial LPG.

Rahul has never bowed before this govt.: Priyanka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has "never bowed before this government", and the ruling side is unable to "digest the truth he speaks in the House", Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Tuesday.

Ms. Vadra took a swipe at the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju for invoking Jawaharlal Nehru during a parliamentary debate, despite the BJP's long-standing criticism of India's first Prime Minister.

"He [Mr. Rijiju] mentioned that I was laughing. I wanted to clear that I was laughing because whom they keep criticising day and night, that Nehru*ji*, they used a quote of Nehru*ji* for their own argument. They have suddenly started respecting Nehru*ji* and that he strengthened democracy and gave such a speech," she said.

She said that Mr. Gandhi continued to raise uncomfortable questions in Parliament.

Opposition brings up suspensions, mic row during debate on Speaker

MPs pull up govt. over failure to appoint Deputy Speaker, raise issue of Rahul not being allowed to talk, microphone being switched off when Opposition leaders speak; no-confidence motion an attempt to keep Om Birla under pressure, says JD(U)

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Arguing for the ouster of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Opposition MPs on Tuesday had a list of complaints, including mass suspensions, the microphone being switched off while they spoke, and the failure to appoint a Deputy Speaker for the past 12 years.

Senior Congress MP Manish Tewari argued that the reason for the Opposition's insistence on moving the resolution seeking the Speaker's removal can be summed up in one phrase: the government must have its way but the Opposition must have its say.

'Quoted from magazine'

Addressing the issue of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi not being allowed to speak about the content of the yet-to-be-released memoir of former Army Chief General M.M. Naravane (retd), Mr. Tewari said that Mr. Gandhi had been quoting from a magazine.

Suspended Lok Sabha members protesting on the Parliament premises on Tuesday. The suspension was raised in the House. ANI

"That magazine that [Mr. Gandhi] was quoting is a published magazine, it is available in the public space even now. And the contents of the magazine or that story has not been controverted by the government till now," the Congress leader said.

He said the charge that women Opposition MPs had planned something undignified by way of protest was "completely over the top and a stretch".

Mr. Tewari also referred to disruptions by Bharatiya Janata Party members and the washout of an entire session when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was in power, pointing out that the UPA government had never moved any resolution to suspend any Opposition member.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said it was ironic and "divine karma" that she was opening the debate from her party against the Speaker who had denied her the opportunity to defend herself during her expulsion from the 17th Lok Sabha.

Moitra's remarks

Participating in the debate, Ms. Moitra said the current speaker has set "less than graceful benchmarks" while presiding over the House. Since 2004, a total of 245 MPs, all from Opposition parties, have been suspended. Nearly half of them, 120 MPs, were suspended during Mr. Birla's tenure.

"In December 2023, Birla*ji* ordered the largest mass suspension in the history of Indian Parliament, suspending 100 Opposition MPs. This one episode alone accounted for over 40% of all Lok Sabha suspensions since 2004," she claimed.

Samajwadi Party MP Rajeev Rai questioned the Chair over the control of the microphones, claiming that the microphones never go off when his party's members attack former Prime Ministers of the Congress regime, but get cut off within 30 seconds when Opposition members question the government.

DMK leader T.R. Baalu said Mr. Birla was a gentleman under pressure. "He is such a gentleman, but I don't know what went wrong with him. He has suspended so many MPs in the last seven years. But why does he have to take such harsh steps?" Mr. Baalu said.

JD(U) leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the no-confidence motion was nothing but an attempt to keep the Speaker under pressure. "To maintain the decorum and dignity of the House, the Speaker has to control unruly members," he said.

Fast-tracking Bill on women's quota may influence U.P. polls

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The timing of the government's feelers to Opposition leaders seeking their opinion on bringing in an amendment to advance the timeline for implementing the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (women's reservation Bill), which seeks to allocate 33% of seats in directly elected legislative bodies such as the Lok Sabha and Assemblies for women, is notable.

In 2027, elections will be held in seven States, four of them ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Among them, Uttar Pradesh is the biggest prize and a major challenge. The BJP, seeking a third straight term, faces declining numbers, from a historic 312 Assembly seats in 2017 to 255 in 2022. If the 2024 Lok Sabha votes are mapped to Assembly segments, the Samajwadi Party leads in 178 seats, and with ally Congress, the bloc crosses the majority mark in the 403-member House.

Internal discontent within the BJP adds pressure. While the party has so far contained factional strains, they are surfacing. In January, the BJP MLA for Charkhari led a protest against the State Water Minister, an unusual public display of dissent.

Element of surprise

Despite being an informal pre-legislative consultation effort, the Centre's move retains an element of surprise. With only a year left for the Uttar Pradesh election, Opposition parties cannot finalise candidates until the government notifies which seats will be reserved for women. This disrupts their planning cycles.

The Uttar Pradesh's Assembly has historically had low female representation. Only 51 women MLAs currently serve in the House, about 12.6%. This mirrors the national picture, where only about 14% of MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha are women. The BJP has 30 of these 51 women MLAs, while the SP has 15.

Only about 14% of MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha are women. PTI

An SP leader admitted the BJP is better positioned to find women candidates because more women occupy organisational ranks within the party.

Caste discontent

Caste tensions threaten the BJP's electoral calculus. Brahmins, a core BJP constituency, feel sidelined under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whose administration is seen as favouring Thakurs.

The sharper concern, however, is the erosion of the OBC support. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP's Uttar Pradesh tally fell from 62 to 33 seats, signalling a drift among the OBC voters. The SP leader quoted earlier doubted whether women's reservation could bridge these caste grievances. "Women candidates do not exist in a casteless vacuum," he said.

India's struggle with women's political representation goes back to Independence. The Constituent Assembly had only 15 women members. Early leaders such as Renuka Ray opposed women's quotas, arguing that they might pigeonhole women and that ability should determine selection.

However, decades of low representation gradually altered the consensus. Accelerating implementation would break a political deadlock that has lasted three decades.

Women have emerged as a stable support base for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in many States. Moving from symbolic commitment to actual reservation could deepen it. Whether women prefer voting for women remains inconclusive, but the political signal matters.

Opposition, govt. spar over 'rural distress' during debate in RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs attacked the Centre over decrease in funds to the rural sector and its "inability to address rural distress" during a debate on the working of the Union Ministry of Rural Development in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

BJP members, countered the attack, and said that the Narendra Modi government believed in building strong villages.

Initiating the debate, BJP MP K. Laxman said the Union government had uplifted rural lives. "Modi government increased the allocation to the rural employment scheme by 40% compared to the UPA regime," he said, adding that the VB-G RAM G scheme was a transparent scheme.

Congress MP Rajani Patil said statistics looked good on paper but the ground reality in villages was different. "Unemployment is increasing. Farmers are in distress," she said.

Trinamool Congress MP Mohammed Nadimul Haque said the Union government was adopting a "step-motherly" attitude to West Bengal, and asked the Centre to explain the reasons for withholding funds meant for rural schemes. He termed the VB-G RAM G Act "a hasty piece of legislation".

Nominated MP Sudha Murty said the government was doing good work in skilling rural persons.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas said there was a rural distress and the Centre was not addressing it.

Opposition walks out of Rajya Sabha over refusal to discuss West Bengal SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday after Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan refused their demand for a fresh discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The confrontation began when Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien attempted to raise a point of order pressing for a debate on the SIR exercise. Mr. Radhakrishnan rejected the plea, stating that adequate time had already been given during the Winter Session for discussions on electoral reforms.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge backed Mr. O'Brien's demand, calling it "very important". Mr. Radhakrishnan's repeated pleas for restoring order had little impact on the protesting Opposition members, who then staged a walkout.

Call for debate: Proceedings under way in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session on Tuesday. SANSAD TV

Following the walkout, Leader of the House J.P. Nadda accused the Opposition of avoiding substantive debate. The senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader said extensive discussions, spanning 15 to 16 hours, had taken place on electoral reforms, including the SIR. He added that the Opposition had walked out without hearing the government's reply to the debate.

Nadda's charge

He reiterated the charge he had levelled on Monday, accusing the Opposition of undermining democratic norms and "bringing about anarchy".

The dispute continued into Question Hour, where Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray used a brief preface to question the Centre's "coercive measures" in West Bengal under the SIR. He pointed to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's five-day dharna, saying it underscored threats to the fundamental rights of millions. Mr. Ray urged the Centre to send representatives to investigate why only West Bengal was being subjected to such measures.

Responding to his allegations, Mr. Nadda accused the West Bengal government of ignoring the rules and regulations. He added that "a lady Chief Minister has disrespected a lady President of India."

INBRIEF

Committed to protecting the Aravalli hills, says Minister

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the Union Government is committed to conserving the Aravalli ranges during a Rajya Sabha debate on Tuesday. The Opposition walked out, alleging objectionable language and demanding an apology. Earlier, Mr. Yadav accused the erstwhile Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan of encouraging illegal mining in the Aravalli hills. "The Supreme Court took cognisance because of rampant illegal mining in Aravalli during Ashok Gehlot's regime. In 2012, when Gehlot's government was resorting to illegal mining in Rajasthan, I had raised this issue," Mr. Yadav said. He said the Centre has already banned illegal mining in Delhi, Faridabad, and Gurugram and is considering the setting up of a High Powered Committee, as per Supreme Court's directions.

AI to levy fuel surcharge due to increase in ATF prices

Air fares are set to rise after Air India said it will introduce a ₹400 fuel surcharge on domestic flights, while international passengers will have to pay an additional $10-$50 over the existing surcharge amid a rise in aviation fuel prices. All new bookings made from March 12 will attract a fuel surcharge of ₹400 on domestic flights. For international routes, passengers will pay an additional $10 on West Asia flights, while the surcharge for Southeast Asia routes will increase from $40 to $60, and for Africa routes from $60 to $90. From March 18, the fuel surcharge on flights to Europe will rise from $100 to $125.

Delhi sends fuel to Dhaka via 'friendship pipeline'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

In a positive turn in bilateral relation, India has sent a major consignment of diesel to Bangladesh as Dhaka deals with critical shortfall in petroleum against the backdrop of the West Asia conflict, official sources here have confirmed.

The Hindu was told that apart from the 5,000 tonnes of diesel from India's Numaligarh refinery that was purchased by Bangladesh this week, there is a request from Bangladesh for more petroleum supplies but that will be addressed after prioritising India's domestic demands.

Sources have described the supply as "regular ongoing energy trade between the two countries". The supply was completed using the 'friendship pipeline' that was operationalised in 2023.

"The supply was made by using the existing pipeline and that it can be utilised to send more based on the demand from Bangladesh and the dynamics of supply side," an official from Dhaka said while appreciating the move.

Official sources said that more energy flow to Dhaka will be considered based on fuel availability in India, which is "being closely watched".

SC seeks balance; govt. says IT Rules do not curb satire

Petitioners question who decides if content about the government is 'fake or misleading', and warn against the state becoming the 'sole arbiter of truth'; Centre tells SC 'we know it when we see it'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought balance between protecting the nation against fake online content and safeguarding the right to free speech while the Centre defended that its Information Technology Rules was not meant to curb humour, satire or criticism of the government.

"There is no intention under the statute [Information Technology Act] or the Rules to curb any humour, statute, expression of view, critical expression of view and criticism," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union government, addressed a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

In fact, the government had notified the formation of a Fact Checking Unit (FCU) under the Press Information Bureau through a notification issued in March 2024 via the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, amended in April 2023. The FCU was meant to act as a "deterrent" against the creation and dissemination of fake news or misinformation regarding the "business" of the Centre. The Amendment Rules and the establishment of the FCU had come under the judicial scrutiny of the Bombay High Court through petitions filed by the Editors Guild of India and stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra.

> The question raised in the case is of paramount importance. It would be better for the Supreme Court to lay down the law. The issues flagged by the High Court leads to the question of how to balance rights without destroying the individual constitutional rights
>
> **JUSTICE SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

The High Court had, in September 2024, struck down the FCU notification and concluded the amended IT Rules of 2023 "unconstitutional" and violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 19(1)(g) (freedom and right to profession) of the Constitution. It had concluded that the expression "fake, false and misleading" in the Rules was "vague and hence wrong" in the absence of any definition. The High Court had said the government cannot assume the role of the "sole arbiter of truth".

The Centre appealed in the Supreme Court against the High Court decision, saying it had no subversive intention to crush free speech.

Senior advocates Arvind Datar and N.H. Seervai, for parties including the Editors Guild, Association of Indian Magazines, News Broadcasters of Digital Association and Mr. Kamra, asked who in the FCU would decide if a particular content was fake or not.

"Who mans the FCU? How can such a unit be formed on the basis of a notification? The High Court had merely asked the government to frame proper Rules," Mr. Datar submitted.

"The question raised in the case is of paramount importance. It would be better for the Supreme Court to lay down the law. The issues flagged by the High Court leads to the question of how to balance rights without destroying the individual constitutional rights," Chief Justice Kant observed.

The Chief Justice however indicated that some of the online platforms conducted themselves in an offensive manner. "You can damage a personal life... you can damage the nation... I am bothered about the impact on the nation," the CJI said.

Mr. Datar said whatever was misleading or fake should be taken down. "But then who defines 'misleading'?" he asked.

Need clear guidelines

"There should be clear guidelines," the CJI responded, "but, at the same time, shifting all the onus on the state machinery without putting any obligations on those who play mischief requires a lot of consideration" the CJI responded.

"When we see it, we know it is fake," Mr. Mehta interjected.

Issuing notice on the special leave petition by the Centre, the court refused Mr. Mehta's request to stay the High Court decision.

NCERT issues apology over graft reference in textbook

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After the Supreme Court of India pulled up the National Council of Educational Research and Training over a reference to "corruption" in the judiciary in a Class 8 social science textbook, the NCERT on Tuesday) issued an "unconditional and unqualified apology" for the chapter in question.

The Supreme Court had registered a *suo motu* case over the reference and the NCERT was quick to withdraw the book and issue an apology for the "error in judgement" that had "crept into" the book. However, the court had questioned the NCERT's initial statement.

On Tuesday, the NCERT issued a statement, saying, "The Director and Members of NCERT hereby tender an unconditional and unqualified apology for the said Chapter IV. The entire book has been withdrawn and is not available."

The NCERT added that it "sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused and appreciated the understanding of all stakeholders". It also said that the NCERT "remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, sensitivity, and responsibility in educational content".

Govt. told X, Instagram to take down critical, satirical posts on PM, UGC equity regulations

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union government has issued a spate of takedown orders for posts satirising, criticising, and mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and accounts critical of the government in response to the UGC equity regulations on X and Instagram.

Over the past month, posts that were taken down on X include a reference by Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia to a viral mistranscription of a Sanskrit *subhashita* by Mr. Modi; criticism of targeting of minorities in India; and two animated satirical cartoons featuring the Prime Minister.

The Hindu counted dozens of such posts in a review of takedown orders posted by affected users, but comprehensive statistics are not available, as these orders are confidential.

Social media firms comply with takedown orders by making posts invisible in India.

Social media firms comply with takedown orders by making posts invisible in India, while they remain available in other countries.

Three-fold increase

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting did not respond to questions from *The Hindu* on a sample of these takedown notices. Meta and X did not respond to a request for comment. Data from Meta show that localised takedowns tripled in the first half of 2025 compared with the corresponding period two years earlier.

When The Wire put out two satirical music videos featuring Mr. Modi, they were targeted with takedown notices on both X and Meta's Instagram, and when the site's founding editor, Siddharth Varadarajan, reposted the second cartoon, the repost was also taken down.

The Congress complained that nine AI-generated posts (labelled as such) were taken down in February.

It is unclear how many orders have been issued in recent weeks. X, which used to publish such orders on a third party platform, no longer does so. Orders under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, are confidential, one senior official pointed out.

'No choice'

One industry source said that while orders under another Section, 79(3)(b), aren't binding, social media platforms have "no choice" but to comply since the takedown timelines were reduced to two to three hours last month.

Pranesh Prakash, founder, the Centre for Internet and Society, wrote on X that the takedowns were "unconstitutional" as they gave users no prior notice.

On Instagram, an account belonging to an Hindu activist, Sarthak Bhagat, who recently protested against the murder of 26-year-old Tarun Bhutolia in Uttam Nagar, Delhi during Holi, and has over 2.7 lakh followers, was withheld in India.

@woke_kashmiri, another right wing account with over two lakh followers, was also withheld with no explanation. Both accounts also spoke out against the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026.

Venugopal's book is an attempt to come to terms with himself: Ram

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

People write autobiographies for different reasons and motivations – from confession to self-discovery – and the one written by former Attorney-General of India K.K. Venugopal is an attempt to "come to terms with himself", N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a discussion on Mr. Venugopal's book *An Accidental Lawyer – My Adventures in Law and Life,* Mr. Ram said the autobiography sought to find the author himself, and that is what is appealing about it and makes it very readable.

He said Mr. Venugopal's book is, in a sense, an attempt to come to terms with himself and not just as a lawyer.

(From left) Diviya Kapur, N. Ram, Subhashini Ali, and Raian Karanjawala at a panel discussion on the book *An Accidental Lawyer* in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"At the same time, (the autobiography talks about) important cases, like the shock of being in Delhi in 1984 during the anti-Sikh genocidal violence. Later on, the violent, barbaric act of Babri masjid demolition, when he says I hang my head in shame... rebuild it, and he was told no, you cannot do that by the then Attorney-General, are other interesting cases," Mr. Ram said.

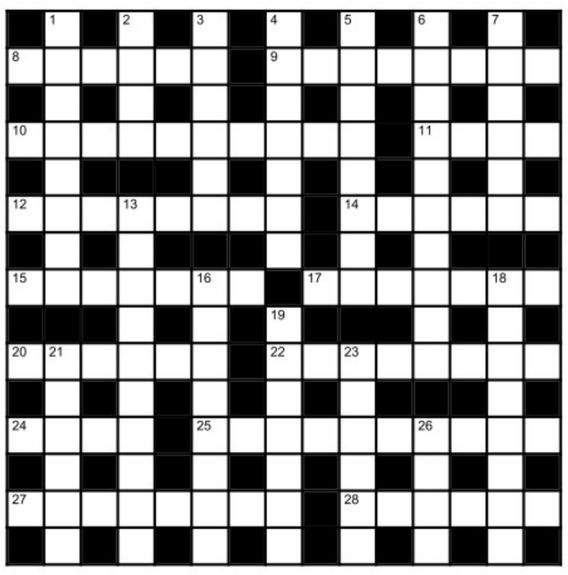
Former MP Subhashini Ali said that while Mr. Venugopal talks about issues like the anti-Sikh riots and the Babri Masjid demolition, he has kept quiet about many issues facing the country, especially so when he was the Attorney-General of India from July 2017 till September 2022.

CROSSWORD + 14738

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Dilapidated mine hidden by "Private" sign (6)
9 Praise active president's detailed scheme on employment (8)
10 Freezes pickles to finish off, per Spooner (5,5)
11 Those people's leader killed for the next in line (4)
12 City in America managed to block foreign visa (8)
14 Once, Singh has frequently filed stable reports? (6)
15 Please switch off? (7)
17 Selection of top end antique hanging (7)
20 Sadly rejected morning greeting (6)
22 Epic of an army fighting to save Sita, ultimately close to Lanka (8)
24 Polish chiefly brightening up faded furniture (4)
25 Huge island warring became neglected (10)
27 Expect gangster to conceal hint in treason (8)
28 Threads covering oriental pines (6)

Down

1 Make fresh green tea (8)
2 Stubbing member's foot softly, walk unsteadily (4)
3 Party food includes extra spicy, tasty appetisers for starters (6)
4 Often a weak point hits large deer (7)
5 Wealth of old, posh lecturer invested in British coins (8)
6 In Riyadh, a situation that's beyond control (3,4,3)
7 Wodehouse character - positive male in this novel (6)
13 Book in Hindi initially isn't available to translate a Rahman film (6,4)
16 Mountain ash layer scattering this range with neutrons (8)
18 Parts of snake repeatedly used in Chinese clothes (8)
19 Twist removing a clear plastic around tattoo (7)
21 Hysteria cum envy constraining judgement (6)
23 Dynasty that ruled ancient city immersed in illusion (6)
26 Battle arising from strikes (4)

SUDOKU

		6	8	1				
	4				5	8		2
					3	1		
	8	5	2					1
4	7						8	3
3					4	5	6	
		4	3					
1		7	6				2	
				4	2	9		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	U	L	I	P	S		T	W
A	■	A	■	O	■	■	I	■
M	E	M	O	R	Y	■	A	S
E	■	P	■	T	■	■	D	■
■	C	O	R	R	E	S	P	O
■	■	O	■	A	■	H	■	M
B	A	N	D	I	C	O	O	T
U	■	■	■	T	■	P	E	■
N	A	A	N	■	B	L	U	E
G	■	T	■	I	■	I	■	T
A	H	E	A	D	O	F	T	H
L	■	L	■	L	■	T	■	■
O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L	■
W	■	E	■	S	■	N	■	■
S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y	■

O	F	A	C	E	D			
■	I	■	A	■	A	■	I	
R	I	B	E	S				
■	D	■	A	■	I	■	P	
S	P	O	N	D	E	N	C	E
■	S	■	E	■	N			
O	T	S	■	A	T	M	S	
■	E	■	F	■	■	■	E	
C	O	L	L	A	R			
T	■	R	■	A	■			
T	H	E	G	A	M	E		
■	I	■	B	■	H			
A	V	I	A	R	Y			
■	E	■	S	■	P			
T	S	E	T	S	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	7	4	3	8	1	5	2
8	3	4	2	1	5	6	9	7
1	2	5	6	7	9	3	4	8
7	9	8	1	5	2	4	6	3
5	4	3	9	6	7	2	8	1
2	1	6	3	8	4	9	7	5
4	5	1	7	2	6	8	3	9
3	7	9	8	4	1	5	2	6
6	8	2	5	9	3	7	1	4

FAITH

Two symbolic trees

From Vyasa the Mahabharata was passed on to Roma rishi, and from him to Suta Pauranika, and from Suta Pauranika it was passed on to Saunaka. We find that different people narrated the Mahabharata, the listeners too being different in each case, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse. Sage Vyasa went to the venue where Janamejaya was performing a sacrifice. He appointed Vaisampayana to narrate the Mahabharata to Janamejaya. Vaisampayana narrated the story to king Janamejaya and also to all the people gathered there. But it was Narada who narrated the Mahabharata to the devas.

The Mahabharata can be seen as a tree, with Duryodhana, who is anger personified, being the tree. The lower portion of this tree of anger is Karna. Sakuni constitutes the leaves, and the root is Dhritarashtra. Had Dhritarashtra not been swayed by affection for his son Duryodhana, he would have checked him and war could have been averted. So, he is seen as the root cause of all the trouble that ensued. There is another way in which the Mahabharata can be seen as a tree. It is a tree of dharma, Yudhishthira being this tree. The lower portion of this tree is Arjuna, the branches are Bhima, fruits and flowers are represented by Nakula and Sahadeva. Lord Krishna is the root of this tree. These representations of the Mahabharata as trees help us see why the Kaurava defeat was inevitable. When decisions are made in anger and jealousy, how can one be victorious? On the other hand, we have the Pandavas, with Yudhishthira being visualised as a tree of dharma. Lord Krishna Himself is the main root of this tree. Pandava victory was, therefore, certain.

INBRIEF

Sensex, Nifty bounce back on retreating crude oil prices

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended almost 1% higher on Tuesday after two days of massive decline, following a drop in crude oil prices and recovery in global peers amid indications the West Asia crisis could end soon. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 639.82 points or 0.82% to settle at 78,205.98. During the day, it surged 960.09 points, or 1.23%, to 78,526.25. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 233.55 points, or 0.97%, to end at 24,261.60. PTI

No storage/dwell time charges for stranded containers: JNPA

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), in compliance with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways directives, waived storage/dwell charges and Reefer Plug-in charges for West Asia-bound export containers stranded at port area on account of geopolitical disturbances in the region. This is to mitigate the hardships faced by the port users due to the ongoing war. The JNPA provided for storage of stranded containers at its container yards till the cargo is shipped out.

Dutch aviation veteran Pieter Elbers quits as IndiGo CEO

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers resigned three months after the airline faced network-wide flight disruptions. He would be relieved from March 10. Promoter and MD Rahul Bhatia would assume charge of the management on an interim basis, as per a statement. IndiGo is likely to announce a new CEO soon. Mr. Elbers, formerly of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, joined IndiGo in August 2022 after the pandemic and steered the airline through a challenging phase for global aviation.

Union Cabinet tweaks 2020 rules to allow Chinese investments

Press Note 3 issued in 2020 had said all investments from countries sharing a land border with India would need the Centre's approval first

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has amended its 2020 rules that had placed restrictions on foreign direct investment from countries that shared a land border with India, the government announced on Tuesday.

The amendment now incorporates a provision of 'beneficial ownership' and specifies that companies with non-controlling stake belonging to entities from these countries can invest in India without first seeking Indian government approval.

Press Note 3, issued in 2020, had specified that any entity of a country that shares a land border with India can invest in India only after securing Government approval. Earlier, this rule had applied only to entities in Bangladesh and Pakistan. The 2020 rule expanded this to the other countries that shared a land border with India, with the biggest investor by far being China.

The amendment incorporates a 'beneficial ownership' provision

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved changes in guidelines on investments from countries sharing land border with India (LBCs)," the government said in a release. "Investors with non-controlling LBC beneficial ownership of up to 10% shall be permitted under the automatic route as per the applicable sectoral caps, entry routes, attendant conditions," the government said. "Such investments shall be subject to the reporting of relevant information/details by the investee entity to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of India (DPIIT)."

Apart from these, the government added that proposals for LBC investments in specified sectors such as the manufacture of electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer "shall be processed and decided within 60 days".

The Committee of Secretaries under the Cabinet Secretary may also revise the list of specified sectors.

'Record foodgrain output likely'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The foodgrain production scenario in the country appears very strong and at a record level, the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2025-26, released by Union Agriculture Ministry here noted. Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Government was continuously working towards the development of agricultural sector and for the prosperity of farmers. "As a result, our agriculture sector is making steady progress," the Minister said.

Government data showed foodgrain output in kharif at an estimated 1741.44 lakh metric tonne (LMT) and rabi foodgrain production at 1745.13 LMT. This was approximately 46 LMT (2.8%) and 53 LMT (3.2%) higher year-on-year.

Fall Feb: This is the steepest decline since February 2021, when SIP contributions dipped 6%. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

SIPs see the worst February in 5 years

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Monthly contributions to mutual fund schemes through systematic investment plans (SIPs) dipped 3.7% to ₹29,845 crore in February 2026 as against ₹31,002 crore in the previous month, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) and CMIE.

This is the steepest decline since February 2021, when SIP contributions dipped 6%, a comparison of February month contribution shows.

The decline also comes after contributions in January 2026 stagnated at ₹31,002 crore compared with December 2025. Moreover, the number of contributing SIPs fell 5% to 9.44 crore accounts from 9.9 crore accounts. SIPs, one of the most-sought after routes to invest in mutual funds, have reduced by this quantum both on value and volume, following continued global shocks that kept markets volatile.

However, Venkat Chalasani, CEO of AMFI said, "The marginal moderation compared with recent months is primarily due to February being a shorter month, with some end-of-month SIP instalments typically getting processed in early March."

Net inflows into gold exchange traded fund (ETF) fell 78% to ₹5,249.5 crore, after two months of continued investor inflow into the category, according to data released on March 10.

The net inflow into this category of investment, which tracks gold prices, was up as high as ₹24,040 crore as of January 2026.

"Gold ETFs, which saw record inflows in January 2026, appear to have moderated, suggesting that some of that defensive positioning is unwinding," said Nitin Agrawal, CEO, Mutual Funds, InCred Money.

The overall inflows in all open-ended schemes fell 39% to ₹94,194.01 crore in the reporting month as against ₹1,56,508.12 crore in the previous month.

To be sure, overall inflows have been reducing for seven consecutive months now, although February 2026 saw the slowest pace of decline.

Govt. invokes Essential Commodities Act for natural gas allocation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Invoking the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has sought diverting natural gas to certain priority sectors with a tiered structure.

In a gazette notification dated March 9, the Ministry underlined domestic piped natural gas (PNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicular fuel, and Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) production alongside fertilizer manufacturing, tea industries, manufacturing and other industrial consumers, among the priority sectors.

Earlier this week, the Centre had invoked the Essential Commodities Act for prioritising LPG supply to domestic consumers.

The latest gazette notification introduced tiered allocation priorities to each of the mentioned sectors. For example, domestic piped natural gas supply, CNG for transport and LPG production, among others, have been accorded for "priority allocation" with supplies to be upheld uninterrupted at "hundred per cent", subject to operational availability.

This would be premised on their average consumption from the previous six months. Fertilizer plants would be supplied 70% of consumption requirements, premised on their average consumption in the previous six months.

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH & NABL Accredited (an autonomous Institution under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
E816522/MCC/82/2026-E2-GAD/1 10.03.2026
EXISTING VACANCIES(PERMANENT)
1.Scientific Officer - Scale of pay – 56100-177500, Level 10 of 7th CPC
2. Bio Medical Engineer- Scale of Pay- 9300-34800 GP 4800 (MP13350)-6th CPC(Pre Revised)
Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis.
The last date for submitting online applications are 09.04.2026 at 5PM.
Details are available in mcc.kerala.gov.in. Sd/- Director

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
ABRIDGED NIT
The Director General, P&D Department, KMC invites online e-tender/quotation expression of interest of lower bidder for the under mentioned work:
NIT No. : KMC/D.G.(P_D)/C/093/2025-26 (1st Call)
Name of the work: **Refurbishment by desilting and lining of brick sewer along Old Court House Street, Hemanta Basu Sarani, Government Place (East, North, West), Netaji Subhas Road, Council House Street at B.B.D. Bag area in Ward No. 45 under Br-V.** Estimated value: **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder.** Earnest money: ₹ **10,00,000.00 (The balance amount of earnest money fall short of 2% of quoted tendered amount will be deposited by the successful bidder in the form of demand draft in favour of "The Kolkata Municipal Corporation").** Period of completion: **24 (Twenty Four) months.** Pre-bid meeting (date & time): **19.03.2026 (12 Noon).** Place of pre-bid meeting: **Office of the Director General, P&D Department, KMC, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087.** Bid submission start date (online): **27.03.2026 (11.30 A.M.).** Last date and time of submission of bid: **28.04.2026 (11.30 A.M.).** Bid opening date for technical proposals (online): **30.04.2026 (1 P.M.).** The bid forms and other details are available on and from **11.03.2026 (11.30 A.M.)** from the website: **https://wbtenders.gov.in** (2378/25-26)

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No. PMM32-e-19/2026:Supply of **740 Nos. 33 KV Polymer LAs and 68 Nos. 220 KV Polymer LAs with 31mm/kV creep age distance. Date & Time of availability of above tender: 11.03.2026 at 6:00 PM.** Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Contact No. CE/Transmission: **0866-2429230.** Sd/-
R.O. No. GMCC/APTRANSCO/67/26 **Chief Engineer/Transmission**

Kerala Maritime Board
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5)
1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building Pipinmoodu,
Sasthamangalam, PIN: 695010
TENDER NOTICE
RFP for Integrated Development of Coastal Assets at Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala on PPP mode
The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites a tender for the **Integrated Development of Coastal Assets at Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala on PPP mode** [Etender Number: **2026_KMB_828713_2**] in Public Private Partnership (**PPP**) mode. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from Government of Kerala's e-procurement portal (**www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**).
Proposals must be submitted on or before **26-03-2026, 06.55 PM**. For further information contact us on **0471-2910040/ 9544410029** or email us to **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**
For updates visit: **www.kmb.kerala.gov.in**
D3/255/2026 Sd/-

Office of the Project Director (Housing)
Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
4-Sa-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)
Tel & fax : 0141-4001187, Email: rudsico.housing@rajasthan.gov.in
No. RUDSICO/PD (H.)/Jpr/2025-26/1030 Date: 27.02.2026
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Selection of Agency for Providing Manpower for Establishment & Operation of State Level Technical Cell (SLTC) & City Level Technical Cell (CLTC) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 "Mission-Housing for All" in Rajasthan up to 18:00hrs, 23.03.2026 under two bid system on E-procurement for E-NIT 23/2025-26. Other particulars of the Bids may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 2631.76 Lacs.
E-NIT No. 23/2025-26
UBN – RDP2526SLOB00135
Raj.Samwad/C/25/22001 General Manager RUDSICO, Jaipur

राजस्थान सरकार
स्वायत्त शासन विभाग राज. जयपुर
जी-3 राजमहल रेजीडेन्सी एरिया, सिविल लाईन्स फाटक सी-स्कीम, जयपुर।
टेलीफैक्स :- 0141-2222403 ई-मेल- fstprajasthan.lsgd@gmail.com वेबसाईट:-www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F55()PA/CE/FSTP/2025-26/3727 Date:- 06/03/2026
Notice Inviting Bid(NIB)
NIB Code: DLB2526B2577
UBN No.: DLB2526WLOB37171
Online Technical and financial Bids in Single Stage two envelopes are invited on behalf of governor of Rajasthan by Directorate of Local Bodies for "Design, Supply, Construction, Testing, Trial run and commissioning of FSTPs towards Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (FSSM) and 05 years operation and maintenance with one year defect liability period including supply, testing of vehicle mounted suction machine for faecal sludge desludging at 100 Nodal Villages in Rajasthan under Budget Announcement no. 09 of FY 2024-25."
Details may be seen in the RFP at the website of the State public Procurement Portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** Interested bidders may download bid from these websites and submit their proposal online latest by 06.04.2026 at 12:00 PM. The approximate value of the work is Rs. 739.42 Crore.
DIPR/C/4985/2026 (Juikar Pratik Chandrashekhar) Director Cum Special Secretary

THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government Company)
Singareni Thermal Power Project
Jaipur(V&M), Mancherial (Dist.), Telangana (State)-504216
Expression of Interest
The following Expression of Interest (EOI) has been hosted in SCCL Website.
For complete details, please visit **https://scclmines.com**
Phone No: **94911 44254, 94911 44780**
Description/Subject:
Hiring Consultancy Services for assisting SCCL in incorporation of **Joint Venture Company (JVC)** between **Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL)** and **Rajas than Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited(RVUNL)** and implementation support after formation of the Joint Venture Company (JVC).
Last date for Submission of EOI: **18.03.2026, 03.00 PM**
R.O. NO. : 1246-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, DATE:- 10.03.2026 GM(E&M), STPP

No. A.12024/1/2024-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
VACANCY NOTICE
Mahadayi Water Management Scheme, 2023 has been notified in the Gazette of India vide Notification No.S.O.2238(E) dated 22.05.2023. The said scheme mandates to constitute an Authority called as Mahadayi PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare And Harmony) to give effect to the decisions of the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT). The Authority has come into existence w.e.f. the date of Notification and would be a body corporate and having three party States namely Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka with its Headquarters at Goa. All the Capital and Revenue Expenditure required to be incurred by the Authority shall be borne by the State Governments of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra in equal ratio.
2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up the following posts in Mahadayi PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare & Harmony), Goa on deputation (including short-term contract) basis:

S. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts
1	Member (Environmental Issues)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
2	Member (Hydrology)	Level-14 Rs.144200-218200)	01
3	Member (Monitoring and Regulation)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
4	Director (Finance)	Level-13 (Rs.123100-215900)	01

3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in, dopt.gov.in.**. Applications **(in triplicate)** complete in all respect of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to: The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 435 (B), Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** & **soe4-mowr@nic.in**, within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.
4 **Advance copies of application not forwarded through proper channel or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.**
(Naravanan Bhattadiri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele. No.: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in
*[**Note:** The English version shall always prevail in case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between English version and its Hindi translation.]*

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ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com
Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Vegetable Seeds Mini-kit for the year-2025-26
NIT No. OSSC/Mktg (Hort)-03/2026
Interested bidders may visit the e-tender portal i.e.**www.tendersodisha.gov.in** for downloading the document for Procurement of Certified Vegetable Seeds Mini-kit for the year-2025-26.
Last date of receipt of tender in portal - **17.03.2026 up-to 05.00 PM.**
1001/53/2526 Sd/- **Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.**
OIPR-1001/1045/1/25-26/0012

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
PABX No.0674-2392801 / 0998 / 6437, FAX No.0674-2390633 / 085; Visit us at: http://www.bda.gov.in/
Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No.138/EE/BDA/2025-26 Date: 07.03.2026
Executive Engineer, Division-V, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil works as mentioned below :

1.	Nature of works	: **Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Pre-fabricated Toilet cum Bath in Police Barrack in BBSR.**
2.	Total No. of works	: **01 (One) No.**
3.	Amount put to tender	: **Rs.77.40 Lakhs**
4.	Class of Contractor	: **"B" Class**
5.	Period of Completion	: **03 (Three) Calendar months**
6.	Cost of Bid Documents	: **Rs.10,000.00 + 18% GST=Rs.7080.00 (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)**
7.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	: **1% of estimated cost put to tender (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)**
8.	Availability of Tender	: **From 10.03.2026 to 5.30 PM of 26.03.2026 https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
9.	Date of opening of Tender	: **Dt.30.03.2026 at 11.30 AM**
10.	Place of opening of Tender	: **O/o - Executive Engineer, Division-V, BDA, Bhubaneswar.**

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
13001/545/2526 Sd/- **Executive Engineer, Div.V, BDA, Bhubaneswar.**
OIPR-13001/13033/1/25-26/0042

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor,
9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.
No:EE/TE & M Cell/BSCC/TEND/06/2025-26 Date: 10-03-2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible registered Agencies in any State Government Organization for the Service detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Providing 5 Nos. Towing Vehicles of Required Capacity as per Specification Detailed in Bid Document Complete on Hire Basis (Including Vehicle, Fuel, Driver and Maintenance of Vehicle) for Bengaluru South City Corporation (Zone-1 and 2) for a period of One year. **Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 210.00, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 3,15,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 12-03-2026. 2)** Last Date and Time for Queries (through Online only): **16-03-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting: **16-03-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **18-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **20-03-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **23-03-2026 at 11.30 Hours (if Possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Zone-1 & 2)
Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC.

MOSCOW

Trump, Putin talk of war in Iran and prospects for peace in Ukraine

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed on Monday the war in Iran and prospects for peace in Ukraine. The Kremlin said Mr. Trump called Mr. Putin, discussing Russian ideas for a speedy end to the conflict in Iran, the situation in Ukraine and the impact of Venezuela on the oil market. REUTERS

BAGHDAD

Iraqi airspace must not be used against neighbours, Rubio told

AP

Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani told U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday that Iraq should not be used as a launch pad for attacks in the West Asia war. Mr. Sudani rejected "any attempt to drag the country into ongoing conflicts," as well as "violations of its airspace by any party". AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. designates Afghanistan as 'state sponsor of wrongful detention'

AFP

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Monday he has designated Afghanistan as a "State Sponsor of Wrongful Detention," demanding Taliban authorities release two Americans and commit to ending its "hostage diplomacy". The Afghan authorities described the move as "regrettable". AFP

DORAL

Trump says Vance 'philosophically' different on Iran, downplays split

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said his vice president, JD Vance, was "philosophically a little bit different than me" at the outset of the war in Iran even as he dismissed the notion of a disagreement between the two. "I felt it was something we had to do," Mr. Trump said. "I didn't feel we had a choice." AP

War will end 'soon', claims Trump; Iran vows to fight 'as long as needed'

Araghchi rules out negotiations with U.S., challenging Trump's claims; Tehran launches attacks on Gulf states, including a strike on a Manama residential building in Bahrain; Pete Hegseth says Tuesday will see the 'most intense' strike on Iran

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday his country would keep fighting as long as necessary, casting doubt on U.S. President Donald Trump's insistence that the conflict would be over "soon".

"It's going to be ended soon, and if it starts up again they'll be hit even harder," Trump told a news conference in Florida on Monday, after telling lawmakers that the campaign would be a "short-term excursion."

"We've already won in many ways, but we haven't won enough," Trump said.

He threatened an attack of "incalculable" size if Tehran blocks oil supplies.

"We will hit them so hard that it will not be possible for them or anybody else helping them to ever recover that section of the world, if they do anything."

The remarks from one of Iran's top leaders, who also ruled out negotiations with Washington, came as Tehran launched a new wave of attacks on U.S.-allied Gulf nations hours after Mr. Trump's assurances of a swift end to the rapidly widening conflict.

Hit hard: Rescuers work in the rubble of residential buildings after air strikes hit Tehran on Monday. REUTERS

Widespread strikes

In Bahrain, authorities said an Iranian attack hit a residential building in the capital, Manama, killing a 29-year-old woman and wounding eight persons. Saudi Arabia said it destroyed two drones over its eastern region and Kuwait's National Guard said it shot down six drones.

In the United Arab Emirates, firefighters battled a blaze in the industrial city of Ruwais after an Iranian drone strike. No injuries were reported.

Sirens also sounded in Jerusalem, and sounds of explosions could be heard in Tel Aviv as Israel's defence systems worked to intercept barrages from Iran.

At the Pentagon, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth warned that Tuesday "will be yet again our most intense day of strikes inside Iran".

Shortly before the statement, he said "the last 24 hours have seen Iran fire the lowest amount of missiles they have fired yet".

Strike near Lebanon's Tyre after Israeli Army warning

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

A strike hit near the south Lebanon city of Tyre on Tuesday, state media reported, after the Israeli military said it would target Hezbollah infrastructure there and warned residents to leave.

Lebanon was drawn into the West Asia war last week when Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in U.S.-Israeli strikes.

Israel, which kept up strikes targeting Hezbollah despite a 2024 ceasefire, has since launched multiple waves of attacks across Lebanon and sent ground troops into border areas.

Israeli strikes and mass evacuation orders have seen nearly 7 lakh people flee their homes in Lebanon in just over a week, with more than one lakh leaving in 24 hours, the UN said.

Lebanese authorities have said Israel's attacks since March 2 have killed at least 486 people and wounded more than 1,300.

Also on Monday, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun accused Hezbollah of working to "collapse" the state and expressed Beirut's readiness for "direct negotiations" with Israel.

He urged the international community to help implement a four-point plan which he proposed to stop the war.

Waves of attacks: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli air strike in the southern coastal city of Tyre. AFP

Fragile hope

Resilient hands: Workers try to repair wires in front of a heavily damaged children's clinic in Russia-held Donetsk, which local officials say was hit by a Ukrainian military strike on Monday. AFP

Strait of Hormuz could be a 'Strait of defeat' for U.S., says Iran's Ali Larijani

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Iran's Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani responded to U.S. President Trump's threat of hitting Iran "20 times harder" if the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz is stopped, saying the chokepoint could be a "Strait of defeat" for the U.S.

"Strait of Hormuz will either be a Strait of peace and prosperity for all or will be a Strait of defeat and suffering for warmongers," Mr. Larijani posted in social media in English, Arabic, Persian, Mandarin, Russian and French. He had earlier reposted Mr. Trump's post, saying "the Iranian people do not fear your hollow threats; for those greater than you have failed to erase it... So beware lest you be the ones to vanish."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Trump threatened Iran with "death, fire and fury".

"If Iran does anything that stops the flow of Oil within the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the United States of America TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far. Additionally, we will take out easily destroyable targets that will make it virtually impossible for Iran to ever be built back, as a Nation, again – Death, Fire, and Fury will reign upon them," Mr. Trump wrote in a post. "But I hope, and pray, that it does not happen! This is a gift from the United States of America to China, and all of those Nations that heavily use the Hormuz Strait," he added.

The Iranian people don't fear your hollow threats; for those greater than you have failed to erase it, Ali Larijani tells Trump. REUTERS

About 20-21 million barrels of oil move through the Strait every day. Around 20% of global LNG trade also passes through the Strait, which connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf Oman. Traffic through the Strait has been disrupted since the U.S. and Israel started the war on February 28.

IRGC, built to preserve 'revolution', is on the frontlines as Iran war spreads

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On March 6, the seventh day of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, President Donald Trump demanded the "unconditional surrender" of Tehran. "There will be no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender! After that, the selection of great and acceptable leader(s), we... will... bring Iran back from the brink of destruction," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post. Soon after, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement that Iran was "fully prepared for a prolonged war". Ever since the war broke out, the IRGC, an elite branch of Iran's military, has emerged as the main pillar of the country's resistance.

The IRGC, or Sepah-e-Pasdaran, was one of the earliest revolutionary institutions decreed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after the 1979 revolution that brought down the monarchy of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. One of the main objectives of the Pasdaran was to preserve the revolution and the theocratic, constitutional system Khomeini and his followers built. The revolutionaries were wary of the loyalty of Iran's regular Army that was commanded by royalists until the revolution. They wanted a fighting force that was completely loyal to the clergy. They went on to build one. Khomeini described the Guards as "the soldiers of Islam". "Wherever you be, guard yourselves against the self in you and from all the Satans around you," he told Pasdaran after the group was founded.

Loyal Guards

The Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88 transformed Pasdaran into a powerful fighting force. The participation of ideologically driven Guards in the war laid the ground for the IRGC to emerge as the most influential wing of the state. Today, the IRGC and Iran's regular military (Artesh) operate as two parallel armed wings of the state. While Artesh and the police force are entrusted with protecting the country's territorial integrity and order at home, Pasdaran's primary responsibility is the protection of the revolutionary government. It has military wing, an overseas operational unit (Quds Force) and a civilian voluntary organisation (Basij) at home.

Fully prepared: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) giving a military salute during a military parade in Tehran. AFP

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, the IRGC has some 1,90,000 trained soldiers under its command, roughly half the size of Iran's regular forces. The Guards' army is spread across Iran's 31 provinces. They also have an 'aerospace force' and a navy. It is the IRGC navy that patrols Iran's maritime borders.

At home, the Guards remain steadfastly loyal to the clerical establishment. Abroad, their responsibility is to neutralise the revolution's enemies and expand the state's influence. Its most elite wing perhaps is the Quds Force (Jerusalem Force), which has been tasked with this duty.

Though the Quds Force was formally established in 1988, Pasdaran, from its early days, had been operational in other parts of West Asia. During the Iran-Iraq war, the Guards set up a dedicated intelligence wing called 'Department 900' for its overseas operations. The department was later merged into the Special External Operations Department, and after the war, the Quds Force was formed. As its name suggests, "liberation of Muslim holy places from occupation" is one of the mandates of the Quds Force. From its inception, the IRGC has dedicated resources and energy to build Shia networks across West Asia. An Islamic Resistance group was founded in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of the country in 1982, which later became Hezbollah.

Axis of resistance

Iran's allies are broadly called the 'axis of resistance' – Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Palestinian territories; Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon and various Shia mobilisation brigades in Iraq and Syria. If the axis has a command centre, it is the IRGC. The U.S. has designated the IRGC as a terrorist entity.

When the Guards look at the region, they see an Iran surrounded by rivals – across the Gulf, there are Sunni monarchies who are American allies; Syria, which used to be Iran's only state ally in the region, is today ruled by a former al-Qaeda jihadist; on the borders of Lebanon, there is Israel, the 'Little Satan'; and the U.S., 'the Great Satan', has thousands of troops and advanced weapons in several bases spread across West Asia.

Beyond the Gulf waters, American warships and aircraft carriers are moving freely. The axis has been weakened in recent years, after Israel expanded its October 7 war against Iran's allies. In June 2025, six months after the Assad regime fell in Syria, Israel bombed Iran. But it was only the beginning.

The Iranians knew a wider war was coming. On February 28, the U.S. and Israel launched broad strikes against Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. For the IRGC, it was the fulfillment of a prophesy – an existential crisis. And they are fighting back with everything they have.

BONANZA

BCCI announces ₹131 crore cash reward for triumphant Team India

VIJAY SONEJI

The BCCI on Tuesday announced a cash reward of ₹131 crore for the entire Indian squad following its third T20 World Cup victory. As per sources, the 15 players will receive ₹6 crore each, while the remaining ₹41 crore will be distributed among the entire support staff. The Rohit Sharma-led team was awarded ₹125 crore in 2024.

PULLED UP

Arshdeep docked 15% of his match fee for throwing at Mitchell in final

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Arshdeep Singh has been fined 15% of his match fee for throwing the ball "aggressively and inappropriately" at New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell during the T20 World Cup final in Ahmedabad. One demerit point has been added to Arshdeep's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

NEW ROLE

Gujarat Titans names Hayden as batting coach for IPL 2026

FILE PHOTO

Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden has been named as the batting coach of Gujarat Titans for the upcoming IPL season. A two-time ODI World Cup-winner and one of the most dominant batters of his era, Hayden joins the Titans set-up with an illustrious international career and expertise in T20 batting dynamics.

DEVELOPING SITUATION

FIFA WC 'too big' to be postponed amid global turmoil: COO Schirgi

AP

FIFA's World Cup Chief Operating Officer Heimo Schirgi says the tournament [scheduled to start on June 11] is "too big" to be postponed because of global turmoil caused by the US and Israeli war against Iran. Schirgi said FIFA is in constant contact with Iran's football federation for updates, but he wouldn't share any details.

We wanted to do something special at home: Suryakumar

The India skipper says his immediate plan is to 'rest and prepare for the upcoming IPL'; he sheds light on how Dhoni — the Men in Blue's first T20 World Cup-winning captain — guided him on 'how to approach an ICC tournament'

T20 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Two days after captaining India to an ICC Men's T20 World Cup title, Suryakumar Yadav is slowly taking in the enormity of the achievement that has put him in the august company of Kapil Dev, M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who too helped the team lift ICC World Cups.

The triumph comes just months after the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side had won the Women's ODI World Cup at home.

Soon after returning from Ahmedabad, where the Men in Blue won a record third T20 World Cup title on Sunday, Suryakumar reflected on the side's successful campaign and the road ahead.

"It feels good to win 2024 and 2026 back-to-back. It is a very special feeling. When we won in '24, we thought it would be so special to do this again at home in '26," Suryakumar said.

"The next target is to win the Olympic gold in 2028. The team has a good momentum. If India wins the T20 World Cup in the same year, it will be great."

On being compared to the likes of Rohit and Dhoni, he added: "It feels good to join that elite company. I am slowly feeling it. It is a very special feeling to be talked about among such great people. I will try to do the same in the future and help India win more trophies."

The 35-year-old revealed that he had spoken to Dhoni ahead of the showpiece. "He told me how to approach an ICC tournament. He told me that we have a good team, we just have to be courageous and we will definitely win. His reaction after the win was amazing," he said.

"Now the plan is to rest, then prepare for the IPL. In the next cycle we will start preparing for the Olympics," he said referring to the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

A World Cup where the willow set the tone

The 2026 ICC T20 extravaganza was marked by big hits and high scores

1 India became the first team to register three 250-plus scores (256 vs. Zimbabwe; 253 vs. England; 255 vs. New Zealand) in a campaign

12 The teams breached the 200-run mark and defended it successfully

18 The number of deliveries Abhishek Sharma took for his half-century in the final, the fastest of the 2026 competition and the quickest in a T20 World Cup knockout game

24 Sanju Samson smashed two dozens out of the park, the most maximums by a batter in an edition

106 India's tally of maximums, making it the first side to cross 100 sixes in a T20I tournament

139 The overall batting strike rate, the best in history

499 India (253) and England (246) recorded the highest match aggregate in the tournament

780 Sixes struck during the 2026 T20 World Cup, the highest in an edition

255 The Men in Blue's total against the Black Caps was the highest in a title decider and the best in a T20I knockout game

> The next target is to bag the Olympic gold in 2028. If India wins the T20 World Cup in the same year, it will be great
> SURYAKUMAR YADAV

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO & ICC | COMPILED BY AKANKSHA CHAKRABORTY

Healy — a match-winner who produced her best on the big occasions

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

A range of emotions hovered around the hallowed Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) Ground in Perth on Sunday as Alyssa Healy bid adieu after a decorated 16-year international career. When the one-off women's Test between Australia and India entered day three, it was clear that a win for the host was a matter of formality. With Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. bundled out for 149 from an overnight score of 105 for six in their second innings, Australia knocked off the target of 25 with all 10 wickets intact.

Once that was out of the way, it was time for her Australian teammates and the 2,000-odd spectators, which included husband and left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc, to doff their proverbial hats to Healy. Having announced in January that the multi-format home series against India would be her swansong, it was altogether apt that the 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter would sign off with a win. Success, after all, was the central motif of her exemplary career: she triumphed in 109 out of 126 ODIs, 111 out of 162 T20Is, and six out of 11 Tests, besides winning eight World Cups across the two white-ball formats.

Healy, who inherited her penchant for wicketkeeping from her famous uncle Ian, walks into the sunset with noteworthy numbers: she piled up 3,777 runs in ODIs at a strike rate of 100.69 and 3,054 runs in T20Is at 129.79. The anomaly was her record in whites – she scored just 502 runs from 11 Tests at an average of under 30. She also held 173 catches and effected 103 stumpings across formats at the international arena.

Great deeds: Healy leaves the arena as one of the legends of the game. GETTY IMAGES

Healy amassed 3,777 runs in ODIs at a strike rate of 100.69 and 3,054 runs in T20Is at 129.79
She scored 502 runs from 11 Tests at an average of under 30
The 35-year-old also took 173 catches and effected 103 stumpings across formats

More than the volume of runs, however, it was her ability to produce her best on the big occasions that defined her greatness.

It is a poignant coincidence that her farewell fell on March 8. It was six years ago to the day that she established herself as a bona fide match-winner, smashing a 39-ball 75 against India in the T20 World Cup final at a raucous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Two years later, in the summit clash of the 2022 ODI World Cup, Healy again flourished when it mattered most – she walloped 170 off just 138 balls to help Australia amass 356 for five and set up a 71-run win over England.

"There's a little bit of sadness. Just sitting in the change room and realising that I don't really get to come back," Healy told the media at the end.

That emotion will resonate with her admirers, for they will never get to watch Healy don the Australian jersey again.

Lakshya keen to build on positives after agonising loss

BADMINTON

Devyanshi Bihani

After another near miss at the All England Open, Lakshya Sen said the gruelling week in Birmingham packed with long matches and formidable opponents has "given a lot of confidence" even though the title slipped away in the championship match.

Lakshya became only the second Indian after his former coach Prakash Padukone to make the men's singles final of the tournament twice.

He knocked out World No. 1 Shi Yuqi and beat World No. 6 Li Shifeng to reach the semifinals of the oldest badminton tournament.

Lakshya said the semifinal against Canada's Victor Lai was one of the most physically demanding matches of the week.

"He's very strong with his defence. To put the shuttle down against him, you really have to wait for the right chance," Lakshya said during a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

The slow conditions made finishing points even harder for him. The draining contest stretched to 97 minutes and featured an 86-shot rally in the decid-

A world of good: Lakshya hopes to use the experience gained from a gruelling tournament to his advantage. AP

> Coming this close and not getting the final win feels a little bit disheartening

ing game. Battling cramps and a blister on his foot, the Indian said he had to block out the pain and take the match "one point at a time" to eventually reach the final.

The physical toll of that semifinal carried into the final against Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi.

Lakshya admitted that despite trying to recover as much as possible, it was "a little bit too hard to get back to 100% on the next day for recovery."

Lin, a left-hander known for his sharp attacking angles, edged the opening game. Lakshya fought back in the second with cross smashes to Lin's backhand, but at 20-20 Lin pulled ahead to seal the title.

"Coming this close and not getting the final win feels a little bit disheartening," he said. "But it was a good week in terms of the whole tournament."

Looking ahead, Lakshya said "the focus will be on recovering well from this and then keep on building to peak well in the World Champs and then the Asian Games as well".

Competing under national flag again should spur Russians on

PARA ATHLETICS GP

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Even as protests against allowing Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate under their own flag marked the ongoing Milano-Cortina Winter Paralympics, World Para Athletics chief Paul Fitzgerald backed the decision and insisted it was not unilateral or arbitrary.

With 26 entries, Russia will be the second largest contingent, behind host India, at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here that was officially inaugurated on Tuesday. The three-day event begins on Wednesday. It will be only the second time Russian para track and field athletes will be participating under their own flag since 2014. The first was last month at the Dubai Grand Prix.

"The International Paralympic Committee held a democratic vote. All members got together and decided to allow Russia and Belarus to become full members of the International Paralympic Committee again, which means they can compete under their own flag. We're in the business of opportunity,"

World Para Athletics chief Fitzgerald. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Fitzgerald told *The Hindu* at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The IPC decision came during its General Assembly in September last year.

"I'm not a politician, and I'm not responsible for what kind of conflicts are out there in the world. I'm in the business of ensuring that people have access to equipment, competitive competitions, and equal sport. And so I welcome their return because I think it's important for all athletes with all disabilities to be able to show what's possible," he added.

While the athletes themselves did not turn up, a couple of Russian officials at the venue agreed performing under the national flag was a big motivation, especially after being forced to participate as neutral athletes for more than a decade.

A landmark year for Indian women's sports

Sports Bureau

Indian women's sports witnessed a breakthrough year in 2025, with the women's cricket and kabaddi teams clinching the World Cup in their respective disciplines.

The Indian blind women's cricket team also scripted history by winning the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup.

On the individual front, 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup crown. There was double delight for Indian pugilists, with Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda clinching the gold at the World Boxing Championships.

Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu reinforced her reputation by bagging the silver medal at the World Weightlifting Championships, landing her third podium finish at the event.

Up-and-coming badminton sensation Tanvi Sharma became only the fifth Indian to reach the final of the BWF World Junior Championships, joining an elite club comprising Aparna Popat, Saina Nehwal, Siril Verma, and Sankar Muthusamy.

While the future of Indian women's sports looks promising, one mustn't forget the contribution of those who paved the way, such as former cricket captains and administrators, Shantha Rangaswamy and Diana Edulji. It is this confluence of the past and the future that *Sportstar* looks forward to celebrating at the 2026 *Sportstar* Aces Awards, which is presented by Amul, co-presented by Casagrand in association with SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

SBI, Christ University, Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC, Indian Softball Cricket Foundation, Jaquar And Company Private Limited are associate partners.

Reva University is the education partner. Blue Star is the cooling partner, while *Times Now* is the telecast partner.

Amul Presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2026 #IndiaTriumphs
Co-presented by CASAGRAND
In Association with SRM

INBRIEF

Marusic goal in stoppage time gives Lazio win over Sassuolo

A stoppage-time goal from Adam Marusic gave Lazio a 2-1 win over Sassuolo and snapped its four-game winless streak in Serie A. The result lifted the capital side one place into 10th, a point and a place behind Sassuolo.

The results: LaLiga: Espanyol 1 (Garcia 36) drew with Real Oviedo 1 (Reina 8). **Serie A:** Lazio 2 (Maldini 2, Marusic 90+2) bt Sassuolo 1 (Lauriente 35).

Indian youth boxers shine with five wins in Futures Cup

Five Indian youth boxers registered wins on the third day of the World Futures Cup in Bangkok on Tuesday. Chandrika Pujari (50kg) secured a 5-0 decision over a Venezuelan boxer, while Joyshree Devi (54kg) posted a RSC victory in the third round. In men's division, L. Ambekar (50kg) also advanced with a 5-0 win. Gunjan (48kg) edged past her Italian opponent 3-2, while Prachi (60kg) defeated the competitor from Ecuador with an RSC victory in the first round.

Double delight for Krishna at Sr. Natl. para badminton

Krishna Nagar clinched two gold medals in the SH6 category of the seventh senior National para badminton championships in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Krishna won the singles title, defeating M.S. Sudarsan 21-10, 21-19 in the final. In mixed doubles, Krishna and Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan defeated Sudarsan and Shreya Kumari 21-7, 21-11. SH6 is a classification for players of short stature, usually caused by conditions such as dwarfism.

Walking Thunder wins main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Walking Thunder, ridden by P. Ajeeth Kumar, won the Common Land Plate, the chief event of Tuesday's (Mar. 10) races here.

The winner is owned by Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Jockey Antony Raj S scored a grand treble on the day.

1. SIR BRUCE PLATE (1,400M): WOLF CREEK (B.R. Kumar) 1, Cape May (Ajay K) 2, Sadiya (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Lego (Ashad Asbar) 4. 2, 5-3/4 and 2. 1m, 27.48s. ₹69 (w), 18, 27 and 41 (p). SHP: 71, THP: 102, FP: 628, Q: 421, Tanala: 17, 815. Favourite: Lego.

Owners: Mr. Imran Isa Sayyed, Mr. Saleem Shah & The Estate of Late Mr. L. D'Silva. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

2. JANGAON PLATE (1,200M): SHARANGA (Antony Raj S) 1, La Quinta (Ajay K) 2, Analysis (Akshay K) 3 and Moonlite Rose (I. Chisty) 4. 3-1/4, Neck and 7-1/4. 1m, 13.31s. ₹25 (w), 21, 19 and 13 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 65, FP: 172, Q: 106, Tanala: 402. Favourite: Sharanga.

Owner: Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

3. ABERDAR PLATE (1,100M): GRIEF (Yash Narredu) 1, Aquatone (Ashad Asbar) 2, Aditya (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Catch The Worm (B.R. Kumar) 3. 2-3/4, 2-1/2 and Dead Heat. 1m, 06.66s.₹11(w). 10, 45, 168 and 10 (p). SHP: 69, THP: 242 and 22, FP: 91, Q: 164, Tanala: 3, 211. Favourite: Grief. Owners: Mr. S. Prasad Raju & Mr. Mukund Kakani. Trainer: K.S. V. Prasad Raju.

4. CROWN TREASURE PLATE (1,400M): NORTHERN WAVES (Antony Raj S) 1, Knight Regent (Akshay K) 2, Corte Madera (Ajay K) 3 and Pride Aside (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 3/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 25.33s. ₹17 (w). 11, 12 and 14 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 40, FP: 39, Q: 22, Tanala: 83. Favourite: Northern Waves.

Owner: Mr. V. Narender Reddy. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

5. SRISAILAM PLATE (1,200M): DARDANUS (Antony Raj S) 1, Master Class (I. Chisty) 2, Toshiro (Akshay K) 3 and Modin P. Ajeeth K 4. 1, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.67s. ₹53 (w), 18, 19 and 16 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 61, FP: 166, Q: 82, Tanala: 604. Favourite: Toshiro.

Owner: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

6. COMMON LAND PLATE (1,200M): WALKING THUNDER (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Timeless Vision (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Cherie Chevalier (Yash Narredu) 3 and Azrinaz (P. Sai K) 4. Neck, Short Head and 1. 1m, 12.00s. ₹58 (w), 10, 21 and 12 (p). SHP: 59, THP: 62, FP: 316, Q: 181, Tanala: 1,112. Favourite: Cherie Chevalier. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

NOTE: *Pleasant Star (Akshay K up) whipped around soon after the start and did not participate.*

7. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (1,200M): RED HOT PUNCH (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Exclusive Luck (Antony Raj) 2, Deccan Ranger (B. Nikhil) 3 and Dhanadeepa (D.S. Deora) 4. 3, 3-1/2 and 3-3/4. 1m, 15.58s. ₹57 (w), 28, 11 and 20 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 74, FP: 89, Q: 37, Tanala: 656. Favourite: Exclusive Luck.

Owners: Mr. E. Aroop Kumar Reddy, Mr. Sunil Kumar Sethi, Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain, Mr. M. Madhukar & Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,691 (148 tkts.) & 30%: 159 (1,069 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,029 (160 tkts.), (ii) 9, 581 (9 tkts.).

Treble (i): 59 (244 tkts.), (ii): 1,346 (29 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Women's World Cup Qualifiers, Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 12.45, 3, 5.15 p.m.; India vs Wales, 7.30 p.m.

Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 1st ODI, FanCode, 1.45 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Be ruthless in front of the goal and kill the matches, urges coach Marijne

The Dutchman sheds light on the inability to score more frequently from PCs, which eventually led to India dropping points against Scotland

Trust in the process: Marijne says the side is gradually adapting to his style of play. K.V.S. GIRI

WWC QUALIFIERS

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Despite India being on top of Pool B in the ongoing FIH Women's World Cup Qualifiers, head coach Sjoerd Marijne lamented his side's inability to capitalise on its chances in the 2-2 draw against Scotland on Monday.

"We had nine PCs and enough possibilities to score more," Marijne told reporters.

"It feels like a loss, and that is good because you want to win these matches, you need to win these kinds of matches. That's what we are working on. I was happy that we came back from a goal down. I like resilience, but it was not enough to kill the match."

Marijne pointed to penalty corner execution as a key area that needs improvement.

"If you get nine PCs, we mistrap the direction of the inflexion, the performance of where the ball has to be... all these things were just not good enough, and that is something we have to keep working on."

The 51-year-old, currently in his second stint with the team, added that the side is gradually adapting to his style of play.

"I am happy with the way the girls really pushed themselves. And in the end, we created good opportunities. Unfortunately, we did not make more [of them]. That is the only thing I can blame the team for," he opined.

"A few really nice attacks, very fast hockey and good defending. They did not come much into our circle. The passing quality today was better than against Uruguay. So step-by-step improvements."

Looking ahead, Marijne expects Wales to present a similar tactical challenge.

"We have a video meeting in the morning and evening, as well as a training session [on Tuesday]. We have an important match against Wales, which also plays low zone [like Scotland].

"We have to do better in that contest, not just in PCs but also in the shots on goal".

Aman, Antim to compete in Asian c'ships selection trials

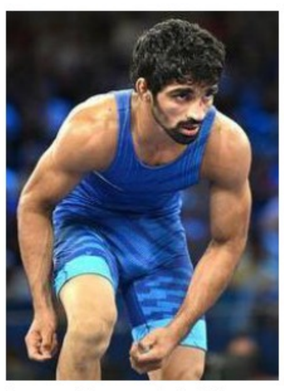
WRESTLING

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat and double Worlds bronze medallist Antim Panghal will compete in men's 57kg and women's 53kg categories respectively at the selection trials for the Asian wrestling championships to be held in New Delhi and Lucknow on March 17.

Even though the list of eligible athletes showed Aman in 61kg weight class and Antim in 55kg, coaches overseeing the camps confirmed that they would compete in their usual categories.

"Since Aman participated in 61kg at the last National championships in Ahmedabad in December last, his name has come under the 61kg list. "However, he will take part in 57kg," said coach Vinod Kumar. Women's head coach Virender Dahiya confirmed that even though Antim's name was put in 55kg under similar circumstances, she would participate in 53kg.



Aman will compete in 57kg. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Antim will be in the fray in 53kg. FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Weight tolerance

Weight tolerance of one kg will be allowed for the five lower weight categories and two kg for the higher weight classes across all styles.

Earlier, the trials were scheduled to be held on March 9 and 10.

Following the delayed arrival of Indian teams from the second Ranking Series event in Albania due to flight disruptions owing to the West Asia crisis, the trials were postponed to March 17.

Wasteful India bows out with defeat to Taiwan

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

A profligate India bowed out of the AFC Women's Asian Cup with a 1-3 defeat to Taiwan in its must-win last group stage fixture here on Tuesday, paying a heavy price for the lack of finishing touches.

Despite dominating large portions of the game and creating numerous opportunities, India's inability to convert chances in the final third proved costly.

Powerful shot

Manisha Kalyan scored India's lone goal in the 39th minute, the winger unleashing a powerful shot from about 30 yards to find the target.

Taiwan took the lead in the 12th minute when Y.H. Su slotted the ball inside an empty goal post after a horrible back pass from Sanju to J.W. Chen.

Indian custodian Elangbam Panthoi Chanu came off her line hoping to stop Chen, who successfully squared the ball to Su.

India struck back after that, but just before half time (45+9), Y.Y. Hsu's penalty hit the upright corner of the post and deflected in off Panthoi.

This was after Pyari Xaxa handled the ball inside the box and the referee pointed to the spot.

The contest was as good as over when Yu-Chin Chen struck Taiwan's third goal in the 77th minute, getting the better of Panthoi after a run down the right side.

End of the line: India had its chances but could not prevail against Taiwan. THE-AFC.COM

The result:

Taiwan 3 (Su 12, Panthoi 45+9-og, Chen 77) bt India 1 (Manisha 39).

Bumrah, Chandra and the electricity of the unorthodox

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In over half a century of obsessing over cricket, dreaming of it, playing it, watching it, writing about it, travelling for it, I have seen only two Indian bowlers who, every time they had the ball in hand, changed the texture of the competition. The stadium quivered in anticipation of a wicket. Sometimes, a rhythmic chant accompanied the run-up, bursting into crescendo at the final leap. Those watching on television sat up, shoulders squared, ready to shine in reflected glory.

The bowlers with that aura are Jasprit Bumrah and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar. Bumrah bowls few rank bad deliveries; leg spinner Chandrasekhar did sometimes. But each could bowl what some consider a mythical delivery: the unplayable ball.

Having said that, we must ask ourselves if there is such a thing as an unplayable ball, which by definition is successful one hundred percent of the time. For success depends on the player (what is unplayable to Mohammed Siraj may not be so to Sanju Samson), the context of the game, and the batter's luck. Bowlers sometimes have the mortification of seeing their best deliveries being edged to the boundary. The unplayable ball defeats not just technique but anticipation. We judge the effort by the effect.

As the philosopher and cricket fanatic George Cox has suggested, in play the ball as an object disappears; it becomes a collection of possibilities and potentials for achieving desired outcomes. It becomes a bundle of intentions, a collection of meanings.

Batters react in one of two ways after being dismissed. Some, unwilling to acknowledge bowler skill, say it was their own mistake that caused it. The mythology of batting depends on control. Others, not wanting to be seen as technically inadequate, say they were done in by an unplayable ball.

At the T20 World Cup, Bumrah's range of slower deliveries showed a master at work. The slow yorker hit the stumps with amazing precision. Three New Zealand batters found it unplayable in the final. The fourth played too early and was caught brilliantly. For doing consistently what seems impossible to others while making his unusual action work for him, Bumrah has been called a genius. That, and a high percentage of 'unplayable' balls.

For so long have we seen Bumrah do this nonchalantly that we take it for granted; worse, we berate him for a rare off day. Luckily for Indian cricket, he has fewer of them than most.

Nobody quite figured out Chandra. The greatest batter of his time, Viv Richards confessed the bowler gave him nightmares. The whirring polio-withered right arm brushed against the ear as it delivered the ball at its height. Batters uncertain of where to meet it did so with a prayer. Chandra held the ball like a medium-pacer, on the smooth side along the seam, not across it like orthodox spinners do.

A modest man with acute self-awareness, he said that so long as there was a slip and a short leg, it didn't matter where the others fielded. "If I am bowling well, I need just those two fielders, if I am bowling badly, 22 fielders will not be enough," he once said.

Bumrah, equally unorthodox, with an arm so straight it seemed to bend backwards, delivers the ball seemingly in front with a remarkable wrist action. As with Chandra, there is no 'tell' for the batter, no obvious change in approach or angle relative to the bowling crease. From roughly the same number of steps, each could deliver a ball to rival the fastest. It is magical, carrying the magic of the improbable.

It is to the credit of their coaches that both were allowed to progress untouched by strained orthodoxy. Cricket is a broad church. The unorthodox remind us not to take the coaching manual too seriously.

Short-format cricket was not as sophisticated in Chandra's time, the focus being on denying runs rather than taking wickets. Consequently he played just a single one-day international. Bumrah, who began as a white ball specialist, might well be the greatest fast bowler to have played the game.

Both had another thing in common – a ready smile and a gentle manner. It has been a privilege to live in an era which has seen these two giants in action.

SNAPSHOTS

Getting ready: Arsenal's Gabriel, Zubimendi, Eze, Calafiori and manager Arteta during training. REUTERS

PSG takes on Chelsea; Arsenal favourite at Leverkusen; Real faces tough outing against Man. City

PARIS: Wednesday's Champions League action sees Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea meet for the first time since last year's Club World Cup final, while injury hit Real Madrid hosts Manchester City in the first leg of their last-16 tie as the sides clash in a knockout tie for the fifth season running.

Premier League leader Arsenal, which has never been crowned European champion, remains on track for four trophies this season and will be favoured to progess as it takes on Bayern Leverkusen. Mikel Arteta's men won all eight matches in the league phase to cruise into the last 16, where success against Leverkusen will set up a tie against Bodo/Glimt or Sporting.

The fixtures: Leverkusen vs Arsenal (11.15 p.m.); Real vs City, Bodo/Glimt vs Sporting and PSG vs Chelsea (1.30 a.m., Thursday).

Sahil Punjabi in lead at National tenpin bowling

BENGALURU: Karnataka's Sahil Punjabi emerged as the early leader at the end of the first block of six games in Round 1 of the ARC 34th National tenpin bowling championship at Amoeba here. Surendra Babu (Karnataka) sits in second place with a total pinfall of 1204 pins at an average of 200.67, trailing Punjabi by 12 pins. Defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar holds third place with 1196 pins.

THE HINDU GROUP

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No:KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/CSSD/484a/2025-26 Date:10-03-2026

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tenders are invited in Two Bid System for the following through GOK KPP Portal tender for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items
1	KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ M.EQUIP/CSSD/484a/ 2025-26, Dt: 09.03.2026 (Call 2)	Supply and Installation of Automated Steam Sterilizer to CSSD dept. KMIO through HAL CSR (Estimated Budget: 108 Lakh)
2	KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ M.EQUIP/DBC/471/ 2025-26, Dt: 09.03.2026 (Call 3)	Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Biochemistry at KMIO (Estimated Budget: 25 Lakh)

The Bid Document will be available in online for from **10-03-2026** to **17-03-2026**. Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Bids have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal and e-procurement Portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through e-Procurement Portal is **17-03-2026** till **4:00 P.M.** Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/SI/6125/2025-26 **Sd/- Financial Advisor**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, R & R Divn. Athani – 591 304.

No.EE/KNNL/R&R/PB/TND/Atn/FIC/Call-2/TBLIS/DC1A/KWC-1/2025-26/1862 Date:09-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICIONAT CALL-2 (THROUGH "e-Procurement" ONLY)

No.EE/KNNL/R&R/PB/TND/Atn/FIC/TBLIS/DC1A/KWC-1/2023-24/1298 Date: 18.01.2024

Electronic percentage tender through KPP platform KW-4 Basis in Two Cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer KNNL R &R Division, Atahni on behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building No:1 Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-01 for the work of KPP I.NO 548 The blank tender documents can be obtained and uploaded through KPPP between 11.03.2026 @ 10.30 AM to 18.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM. 2) Last date for tender queries/prebid meeting 16.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM 3) Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE R&R Division Athani 16.03.2026 at 11.00 AM 4) Last Date for submission 18.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM 5) Opening of Technical Bid Work at EE KNNL R&R Division Athani on 20.03.2026 @ 4.30 PM 6) Opening of Financial bid on 23.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM After the approval of technical Bid 7) Stipulated period 06 Months Including Mansoon 8) Amount put to tender (ex.GST) for Rs. 400.39 lakhs 9) class of Contractor KPWD Class-II and above Registered contractors.

Any information required in this regard can be had from the E-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL R&R Division Athani and this office Telephone No.08289-285031 during office hours.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2038/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL R&R Division, Athani.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(53E): 2025-26:JE-1 Dated: 09.03.2026

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal) /2nd Call

Inviting Tender for 2nd call Indent No. 33407 **under the Head of Account CMIDP.** The Last date for reciept of tender: **17.03.2026 upto 17.00 Hours. (Estimate Amount Rs.100.00 Lakhs)**
Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. **Contact No: 0824-2423169.**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1725/25-26 dt.10.03.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

☎: 08232-275663
ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ -೫೭೧೪೦೨
पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय,मंड्या-५७१४०२
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MANDYA - 571402
ई-मेल/E-mail: kvmandya@gmail.com वेबसाइट/Website: https://mandya.kvs.ac.in
के.वि.कोड/KV CODE: 2300 स्टेशन कोड/Station Code: 788 क्षेत्र कोड/ Region Code: 02 ज़ोन/Zone : दक्षिण/South
सीबीएसई संबद्धता संख्या/CBSE Affiliation Number: 800046 यू-डीआईएसई कोड /U-DISE Code: 29220801904

Walk-In-Interview

Walk-In-Interview for preparing a panel of contractual teachers of the following subjects for the Academic Session 2026-27 will be held on **17-03-2026 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Vidyalaya Premises. Registration time for the Candidates will be 9:30 am–10:00 am.

1. **TGT** – Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Science, Social Science,
2. Primary Teacher (PRT)
3. Computer Instructor, Staff Nurse, Sports Coach, Special Educator, Yoga Instructor, Art Teacher, Kannada Teacher, Music Teacher and ATL Instructor.

NOTE: - Interested and eligible candidates may appear with duly filled application form along with original certificates and photocopies of the required documents to the Vidyalaya premises on **17-03-2026 up to 09:30 a.m.**

- No TA/DA is payable for the interview.
- For downloading application form and more details regarding eligibility criteria, pay, terms and conditions of service etc. please visit the Vidyalaya **website https://mandya.kvs.ac.in**.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.
No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE-2/T.No.57/2025-26/ Dt. 05-03-2026

Short Term Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW-4 e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for **04 work** under 5054-04-337-0-01-160 MDR Renewal Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Maximun amount Put to Tender **Rs.237.99 Lakhs** and Minimum amount put to Tender **Rs.159.59 Lakhs** Maximun EMD Amount **Rs. 3,56,978/-** and Minimum EMD Amount **Rs. 2,39,388/-**)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**20-03-2026 : 17-30**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**23-03-2026 : 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**24-03-2026 : 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**25-03-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

DIPR/TUM/RO-295/25-26/Oysters **Sd/- Executive Engineer** P.W.D Division, Tumkur

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PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

My clients intend to purchase the following Immovable properties being Agricultural Lands situated at **Nagaraghatta Village, K. Shettihalli Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluka, Mandya District, Karnataka**, which are described in the Schedule below from their respective Landowners:

SCHEDULE

Sy No.75/120	Guntas	Sy No.71	2 Acres
Sy No.75/220	Guntas	Sy No.73/1	24 Guntas
Sy No.75/320	Guntas	Sy No.73/2	36 Guntas
Sy No.75/420	Guntas	Sy No.76/1	2 Acres 08 Fraction Guntas
Sy No.75/5	1 Acre 38 Guntas	Sy No.95	4 Acres
Sy No.96/2	30.08 Guntas	Sy No.96/1	2 Acres 19 Guntas
Sy No.96/3	30.08 Guntas	Sy No.104/1	1 Acre
Sy No.105/2	19.04 Guntas	Sy No.104/2	1 Acre
Sy No.105/3	19.04 Guntas	Sy No.105/1	19.04 Guntas
Sy No.105/4	19.04 Guntas	Sy No.106/1	1 Acre 8 Guntas
Sy No.124	3 Acres	Sy No.106/2	21 Guntas
Sy No.125	2 Acres	Sy No.127	2 Acres
Sy No.126	2 Acres	Sy No.129	2 Acres
		Sy No.130	1 Acre 20 Guntas

The above mentioned survey numbers measuring 13 Acres 36 & ¾ Guntas owned by Mrs. Anuradha Indana W/o. Indana Prabhakara

The above mentioned survey numbers measuring 19 Acres 27 & ¼ Guntas owned by Mr. Abhinava Indana S/o. Prabhakara Rao Indana

Old Sy No.15/P39 (New Sy No.15) measuring 2 Acres owned by Shri. H Eregowda S/o Thimmegowda

Old Sy No. 15/P86 (New Sy No 15) measuring 2 Acres owned by Shri. Nijalingu S/o Chikkanna

In addition to the above-mentioned lands in various survey numbers, my client intends to purchase **the converted land measuring approximately 3 Acres 38.08 Guntas in Converted Sy. No. 76/2, situated at Nagaraghatta Village, K. Shettihalli Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluka, Mandya District, Karnataka,** which is owned by **M/s Malkhed Real Estate Private Limited.**

The respective owners'/possession holders of the lands, hereby assert that the entirety of the aforementioned properties are free from all encumbrances, charges, litigation, or claims of any nature. The above said owners further confirm that no existing sale agreements, either written or verbal, are in place for these lands. Any person, institution, or interested party with adverse claims or disputes must communicate such claims to the undersigned within 15 days of this public notice. Failure to do so will result in the lawful presumption that my client and their nominees are free to proceed with the purchase of the properties as bona fide buyers, without any legal hindrances, and no further claims will be entertained.

Issued on Instruction from My Client
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 10-03-2026

SACHIN YALLARADDI, Advocate, B.E., LL. B
Mob: +91 9482102696

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender/2025-26/4028 Date: 09-03-2026

E-Procurement Tender Notification
Standard Bid Document KW-3
(One Cover & Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited for the following 11 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 Rules from eligible PWD contractors through e-Procurement Portal Under H/A: 2024-25 5054 Flood Damage Grant, of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in The work Indent details are as shown below:
Indent Nos : 17018/CALL-2, 17537/CALL-2

The details of Tender Fees and EMD: Tender Fees and correspondence EMD details with respect to work indent details to be seen as per E-Procurement portal. (Minimum Amount : **62.38** Lakhs) (Maximum Amount: **62.63** Lakhs)

Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **10-03-2026** to **17-03-2026** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **18-03-2026** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid : **20-03-2026** at 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/699/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification-41/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026(2nd Call)
Ref:Short Term Tender Notification-31/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/CPWD Class-I and Above. The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**
"CONSTRUCTION OF BARRAGE / BRIDGE CUM BARRAGE IN SELECTED REACHES OF VARADA AND DANDAVATHI RIVER IN SORABA TALUK OF SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT". (INDENT No:3900). Work Amount put to tender **Rs. 36.76 Crores** and EMD **Rs.0.32 Crores**

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on **09.03.2026 to 08.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2)** Date of Pre bid meeting:**23.03.2026 @11.00AM.**(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga **3)** Opening of technical bid will be on **10.04.2026 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-**09.03.2026** at **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

DIPR/SMG/No-65-03/ zenkar/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division, Shikaripura**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಕ್ಕ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-577005 ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 237833
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08192 230919 e mail : dhodavangere@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಆದಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಹೊ.ಗು/07/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.03.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತುಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 22 ಫಾರ್ಮಸಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, 02 ಕಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ಶಾಲಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, 02 ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕರು, 101 ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ, 20 ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿಹಾಗೂ 02 ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ (ಒಟ್ಟು–150 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು) ಮಾರ್ಚ್–2027 ರ (ದಿನಾಂಕ:31–03–2027) ರವರೆಗಿನ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:09–03–2026 **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 4,05,91,000/– (ನಾಲ್ಕು ಕೋಟಿ ಐದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ತೊಂಭತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಾವಿರದ ಐದು ನೂರ ಅರವತ್ತೇಳು) **(3)** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು E-Procurement Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:10–03–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–04–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4:30 ರವರೆಗೆ **(4)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:13–04–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ **(5)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು **(6)** ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು **(7)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 10,15,000/– (ಹತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಹದಿನೈದು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ) **(8)** E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees E-Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ **(19)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮ ನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್ ಪಕ್ಕ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577005
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–237833

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಪಿಜಿ/812/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 **ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ**

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RAAJMARG InvIT
An InvIT sponsored by NHAI

RAAJMARG INFRA INVESTMENT TRUST

The Trust has been registered in the Republic of India as an irrevocable trust set up under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, on November 24, 2025, and registered as an infrastructure investment trust under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014, on December 22, 2025, having registration number IN/InvIT/25-26/0034.

Principal Place of Business: G - 5 & 6, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110 075; **Telephone:** +91 11 2507 4100/200 - 3211; **Compliance Officer:** Gunjan Rajpal; **E-mail:** compliance@riimpl.in; **Website:** www.raajmarginfratrust.in

SPONSOR	INVESTMENT MANAGER	TRUSTEE
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA	RAAJMARG INFRA INVESTMENT MANAGERS PRIVATE LIMITED	IDBI TRUSTEESHIP SERVICES LIMITED

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] UNITS OF RAAJMARG INFRA INVESTMENT TRUST ("TRUST") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER UNIT TOGETHER WITH SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 60,000.00 MILLION ("ISSUE").
THE ISSUE IS AN INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER IN RELIANCE UPON REGULATION 14(4) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS) REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED ("INVIT REGULATIONS").

Price Band: ₹99 to ₹100 per Unit

Bidders (other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors) can make Bids for a minimum of 150 Units and in multiples of 150 Units thereof
Minimum Bid Size for Bidders other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors - ₹14,850

RISKS TO INVESTORS:

- The Trust is a newly settled trust with no operating history and limited historical financial information and, as a result, investors may not be able to assess its prospects on the basis of past records and the financial information disclosed in the Offer Document.
- The Project SPV has not executed the concession for InvIT Assets with the concessioning authority.
- The Trust must maintain certain investment ratios, which may present additional risks to the Trust.
- The ability of the Trust to make or maintain consistency in distributions to Unitholders depends on the financial performance of the Project SPV and their profitability.

Credit Ratings: (i) (a) Provisional CARE AAA; Stable from CARE Ratings Limited for the proposed bank loan facilities aggregating to ₹40,000.00 million to be availed by the Trust; and (b) Provisional CARE AAA; Stable, from CARE Ratings Limited as issuer rating. and
(ii) (a) Provisional Ind AAA/Stable from India Ratings & Research Private Limited for the proposed bank loan facilities aggregating to ₹40,000.00 million to be availed by the Trust; and (b) Provisional Ind AAA/Stable as issuer rating from India Ratings & Research Private Limited.

BID ISSUE/PROGRAM	BID/ISSUE OPENS TODAY	BID/ISSUE CLOSES ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026*

**The Investment Manager may in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, consider closing the Bid/ Issue Period for QIBs one Working Day prior to the Bid/ Issue Closing Date, in accordance with the InvIT Regulations.*

ASBA#	Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!	#Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to Issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.	Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI-Now available in ASBA for Individual Non-Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹ 500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Individual Non-Institutional Investors also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors. UPI may be availed by Individual Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Category. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section *"Issue Information"* on page 271 of the Offer Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes &intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Issue, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Issue related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Issue Period will be extended by at least one Working Day, subject to the total Bid/Issue Period not exceeding 30 days, provided that there shall not be more than two revisions to the Price Band during the Bid/Issue Period. Any revision to the Price Band and the revised Bid/Issue Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges during the Bid/Issue Period and by indicating the change on the websites of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Investment Manager, Book Running Lead Managers, Syndicate Members, SCSBs and Stock Exchanges.

In case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Bid/ Issue Period may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a minimum period of three Working Days, subject to the total Bid/ Issue Period not exceeding 30 days.

This Issue is being made through the Book Building Process and in compliance with the InvIT Regulations and the SEBI InvIT Master Circular, wherein not more than 75.00% of the Net Issue (excluding the Strategic Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Institutional Investors, provided that the Investment Manager may, in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, allocate up to 60.00% of the Institutional Investor Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the InvIT Regulations and the SEBI InvIT Master Circular. Further, not less than 25.00% of the Net Issue (excluding the Strategic Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Investors, in accordance with the InvIT Regulations and the SEBI InvIT Master Circlar, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. The Issue will also include participation by Strategic Investors, wherein not less than 5.00% of the Net Issue and not more than 25.00% of the Net Issue shall be allocated to the Strategic Investors in accordance with the InvIT Regulations and the SEBI InvIT Master Circular. All Bidders, other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors, are required to utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (**"ASBA"**) process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID (in case of individual Non-Institutional Investors using the UPI Mechanism Bidding with a Bid Amount of ₹ 0.50 million or less), in which case the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks (**"SCSBs"**) or under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable, to participate in this Issue. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion of the Issue through the ASBA process. For details, please see the section entitled *"Issue Information"* on page 271 of the Offer Document.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Issue, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Issue. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

LISTING: The Units to be offered pursuant to the Offer Document are proposed to be listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (the **"NSE"**) and BSE Limited (the **"BSE"**, together with NSE, the **"Stock Exchanges"**). In-principle approval for listing of the Units has been received from BSE and NSE pursuant to letters, each dated February 13, 2026. For the purposes of the Issue, NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. The Investment Manager shall apply to the Stock Exchanges for the final listing and trading approval, after the Allotment and the credit of the Units to the demat accounts of the Allottees.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): It is to be distinctly understood that submission of Offer Document to SEBI should not in any way be deemed or construed that the same has been cleared or approved by SEBI. SEBI does not take any responsibility either for the financial soundness of any scheme or the project for which the Issue is proposed to be made or for the correctness of the statements made or opinions expressed in the Offer Document.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (the Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document for the full text of the Disclaimer clause of NSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document for the full text of the Disclaimer clause of the BSE.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in Units involve a degree of risk and Bidders should not invest any funds in this Issue unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. For taking an investment decision, Bidders must rely on their own examination of the Trust, the Units and this Issue. Bidders are advised to carefully read the section entitled ***"Risk Factors"*** on page 42 of the Offer Document before making an investment decision relating to this Issue. Each Bidder is advised to consult its own advisors in respect of the consequences of an investment in the Units being issued pursuant to this Issue. The Offer Document has been prepared by the Trust solely for providing information in connection with this Issue. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**"SEBI"**) and the Stock Exchanges assume no responsibility for or guarantee the correctness or accuracy or adequacy of any statements made, opinions expressed or reports contained herein. Admission of the Units to be issued pursuant to this Issue for trading on the Stock exchanges should not be taken as an indication of the merits of the Trust or of the Units.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS				REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE
SBI CAPITAL MARKETS LIMITED 1501, 15th Floor, A & B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo Building, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4196 8300; **E-mail:** raajmarg.ipo@sbicaps.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investor.relations@sbicaps.com **Contact person:** Sanjay Sethia **Website:** www.sbicaps.com **SEBI registration number:** INM000003531	AXIS CAPITAL LIMITED 1st Floor, Axis House, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183 **E-mail:** raajmarg.ipo@axiscap.in **Investor grievance e-mail:** compliants@axiscap.com **Contact person:** Harish Patel/ Mayuri Arya **Website:** www.axiscapital.co.in **SEBI registration number:** INM000012029	ICICI SECURITIES LIMITED ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6807 7100 **E-mail:** raajmarg.ipo@icicisecurities.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** customercare@icicisecurities.com **Contact person:** Shri Subramanyam / Sumit Singh **Website:** www.icicisecurities.com **SEBI registration number:** INM000011179	MOTILAL OSWAL INVESTMENT ADVISORS LIMITED Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai – 400 025, Maharashtra, India **Telephone:** +91 22 7193 4380 **E-mail:** riit.ipo@motilaloswal.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** moiaplredressal@motilaloswal.com **Contact person:** Shashank Pisat/Sankita Ajinkya **Website:** www.motilaloswalgroup.com **SEBI registration number:** INM000011005	KFIN TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED Selenium, Tower B, Plot No-31 and 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Rangareddy - 500 032, Telangana, India **Tel.:** +91 1800 309 4001 / +91 40 6716 2222 **E-mail:** riimpl.invit@kfintech.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Website:** www.kfintech.com **Contact person:** M. Murali Krishna **SEBI registration number:** INR000000221

CONTACT PERSON AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER	
Gunjan Rajpal, G - 5 & 6, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110 075; **Telephone:** +91 11 2507 4100/200 - 3211; **E-mail:** compliance@riimpl.in	Bidders can contact the Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Issue in case of any pre-Issue or post-Issue related problems such as non-receipt of Allotment Advice/ letter of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Units in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF THE OFFER DOCUMENT: Investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document and the ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 42 of the Offer Document before applying in the Issue. A copy of the Offer Document is made available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e., www.sbicaps.com and www.axiscapital.co.in, www.icicisecurities.com, www. motilaloswalgroup.com, the website of the InvIT at www.raajmarginfratrust.in and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the principal place of business of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust, **Telephone:** +91 11 2507 4100/200 - 3211 at the offices of the Book Running Lead Managers: **SBI CAPITAL MARKETS LIMITED, Tel:** +91 22 4196 8300, **AXIS CAPITAL LIMITED, Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183, **ICICI SECURITIES LIMITED, Tel:** +91 22 6807 7100 and **MOTILAL OSWAL INVESTMENT ADVISORS LIMITED, Telephone:** +91 22 7193 4380 and Syndicate Member: Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited and SBICAP Securities Limited and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members, SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Issue. Bid-cum-Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-syndicate Members: Alankit Imaginations Limited, Almondz Global Securities Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Asit C. Mehta Investment Interrmediates Limited, Axis Securities Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Pvt. Limited, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd., G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, HDFC Securities Limited, IIFL Capital Services Limited, Innovate Securities Pvt Limited, Jhaveri Securities, JM Financial Services Limited, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities Pvt.Ltd., Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Kotak Securities Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Ltd., Pravin Ratilal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd., RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd., Sharekhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Limited, SS Corporate Securities Limited, Tanna Financial Services, TradeBulls Securites (P) Limited, Upstox Securities Private Limited, Yes Securities (India) Limited

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA): Investors other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors, have to apply through the ASBA process. For details on the ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and abridged offer document and also please refer to the section ***"Issue Information"*** beginning on page 271 of the Offer Document. ASBA Forms can also be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges. ASBA form can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ASBA Form can be obtained from Members of the Syndicate, SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs, the list of which is available on the website of SEBI.

ESCROW COLLECTION BANK, REFUND BANK AND SPONSOR BANK: ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC ISSUE ACCOUNT BANK AND SPONSOR BANK: HDFC Bank Limited

SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION BANK: Yes Bank Limited

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Offer Document.

For **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust**
on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Gunjan Rajpal
Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: March 10, 2026

RAAJMARG INFRA INVESTMENT TRUST is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its Units and has filed the Offer Document dated February 28, 2026 with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. The Offer Document is made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the website of the Book Running Lead Managers i.e., SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited at www. motilaloswalgroup.com, the website of the NSE at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE at www.bseindia.com and the website of the Trust at www.raajmarginfratrust.in. Any potential investor should note that investment in Units involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, please see the section titled ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 42 of the Offer Document. Potential investors should not rely on the Draft Offer Document for making any investment decision.

The Units have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Units are only being offered and sold outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act ("Regulation S") and the applicable law of the jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made.

Adfactors